Daily Report

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FBIS-SOV-91-245 *20 December 1991*

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Arms Control & Disarmament

Further on Denial of Nuclear Sales to Mafia

LD1812124791 Moscow TASS in English 1229 GMT 18 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow December 18 (TASS)—"The Soviet nuclear weapons are safely stored and any 'leak' is absolutely ruled out," chief of the USSR Defence Ministry Information Directorate Lieutenant-General Valeriy Manilov told TASS today. He described as groundless the allegations, published by the Italian newspaper "LA STAMPA", that Soviet officers sell tactical nuclear weapons to the mafia.

Manilov stressed that commanders of Army units could not "trade" tactical nuclear weapons even if such an idea came to their minds. These units have means of delivery, i.e., missile launchers, tactical aircraft and artillery systems, but lack the main components—nuclear warheads. The latter are stockpiled at special bases and may be supplied to troops, according to a scrupulously controlled procedure, shortly before combat use. Storage safety is guaranteed not only by specially assigned troops, but also by other measures, including modern electronic protection devices.

It is a far from easy job to get a nuclear warhead out of such a depot without proper permission. But even if this happens, which is absolutely unthinkable, Moscow is sure to get a warning signal right away. "No such signals have been received by the Defence Ministry," Manilov stressed.

"It is regrettable that such a respectable newspaper as "LA STAMPA" deems it possible to spread dubious news, at a time when our ministry has official bodies, open for the press and responsible for checking any military information," the general noted.

Worldwide Issues

Shevardnadze Thanks U.S. Official for Aid

LD1812175291 Moscow TASS in English 1708 GMT 18 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow December 18 TASS—There are thousands of tonnes of food and medication in the United States which could be sent to the Soviet Union as humanitarian aid, but we must be sure that your country has a reliable structure for the reception and distribution of the aid, Jim Harrison, president of the International Foreign Political Association, said today at a meeting between Soviet Minister of External Relations Eduard Shevardnadze and representatives of the association. The association brought medical equipment and medication worth 10 million dollars to Moscow.

We seek to attain two goals by our action: to mobilise humanitarian aid for the Soviet Union and to support the process of democratic transformations in this country, Harrison said. The association responded to the appeal of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, made during his visit to the United States last spring. Shevardnadze asked for help for this country during the coming winter.

"All you are doing is humane and important for big politics and for the preservation of stability in our huge country," Shevardnadze said. He described the situation in the country as "complicated and explosive" and expressed confidence that "our people and history will appreciate solidarity displayed now by people from the United States and other countries."

Shevardnadze and representatives of the association discussed measures to be taken for distributing humanitarian aid in the most effective way. Shevardnadze put forward the idea of creating an independent committee in Moscow, which would act as a coordinator. The committee could be made up of representatives of the Soviet and American public and would coordinate its actions with state institutions and public organisations.

Harrison told TASS he is confident that the efforts will prove successful. We have already brought 200 tonnes of humanitarian aid last weekend and are ready to bring more, he said.

Gorbachev Meets Official

LD2012131691 Moscow TASS in English 1227 GMT 20 Dec 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Baku December 20 TASS—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev today met visiting World Foreign Political Association President Jim Harrison, who arrived in Moscow last week with a 10 million dollar shipment of medical equipment and supplies.

Gorbachev thanked Harrison for the humanitarian aid and said he was pleased Harrison came with a group of experts specializing in establishing commercial ties.

"Your work establishing commercial relations is quite indispensible to us at this stage of transition to a market economy," the Soviet president said.

Gorbachev Greets Federalism Conference

PM1912131991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Dec 91 p 4

[TASS report: "In the Field of Grand Politics"]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Dec—Mikhail Gorbachev sent greetings to the participants in the international conference "Modern Problems of Federalism."

Our country is now going through one of the most complex periods in its centuries-old history, the greetings message states. This question is being decided: Is it to be a union or a commonwealth of independent states united to achieve common goals, or will the republics separate, with all the ensuing negative consequences both for our peoples and for the world?

Of course, problems of this kind are resolved at the level of grand politics. Yet an in-depth, conscientious, theoretical analysis, taking account of both Soviet and world experience, is of tremendous significance. The traditions of U.S. federalism undoubtedly attract great interest on this level. After passing through major trials, it proved capable of ensuring a stable system of collaboration between the central organs, the state authorities, and local self-government.

I am convinced that the U.S. participants in the conference will also find it useful to exchange opinions with their Soviet colleagues and that this will enable them to form a more reliable picture of our reforms and of the stormy processes now occurring in the country.

Republics Sign European Energy Charter

PM2012100991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Dec 91 Union Edition p 5

[Report by correspondent Yu. Kovalenko: "Energy Charter for Europe. In Exchange for Up-To-Date Technology We Are Providing Access to Our Oil Resources"]

[Text] Paris—More than 40 states, including practically all the former Soviet republics, have signed a European Energy Charter in The Hague. It plots the contours of an "all-European energy market" for East and West and envisages that they will be complementary. Moreover, the document is intended to guarantee future supplies of fuel from East to West Europe, help the former socialist camp revive its oil industry, increase production, and improve the processing, transportation, and use of energy sources.

The new document provides for the opening of national and international markets. The parties to it will ensure the free movement of oil, gas, and electricity both between East and West and between the republics of the former Union.

The states that signed the European Charter include the United States, Canada, Japan, and Australia, and there was also the Interstate Economoic Committee [IEC] on behalf of our "center." For the first time, the 15 former Soviet republics were full-fledged parties to an international agreement.

The gist of the charter, LE MONDE stresses, is that Western capital will be exchanged for access to the vast stocks of oil and natural gas that are being inefficiently used in the former Union. We will be able to modernize the oil industry, markedly increase production, and thus increase our hard currency revenue.

Again we will be giving the West oil, under long-term contracts, in exchange for investments. The relevant agreements have already been concluded, in particular with the French companies "Total" and "ELF Aquitaine."

The charter does not have any juridical force in itself. So it will be supplemented by a series of agreements in various spheres; in particular, the so-called "fundamental act" and the protocols determining the work methods and the creation of a permanent secretariat.

Other protocols concern cooperation in the sphere of nuclear energy and safety, energy saving, environmental protection, the quest for new energy sources, modernization of refineries, and oil prospecting. Exchange of scientific-technical information and know-how is also envisaged.

The creation of a juridical basis that will guarantee the reliability of capital investments and the export of any profit will be a most important feature of the new documents. This should remove the main obstacle in the way of Western investments in our economy.

Western experts believe that this document could be of paramount importance for the Soviet Union. It will enable our oil industry to solve its own problems and, according to some assessments, to become in 10 years' time a major exporter, earning billions of dollars in profits. As for the West European states, they will be able to reduce their dependence on the OPEC countries.

Finally, in Paris' view, the creation of an all-European energy market is one of the first major cooperation projects between the two parts of the Old Continent, which will form the foundation for the creation of a European Confederation of East and West.

At the same time, the adoption of the charter, observers point out, worries the OPEC countries, which see it as a manifestation of isolationism on Europe's part. Ecologists are unhappy too, believing that the charter's provisions contradict certain environmental protection commitments made by the states.

NATO Cooperation Council's Formation Noted

PM2012120191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Dec 91 p 5

[Correspondent Vladimir Peresada report: "Shift To Partnership. NATO Foreign Ministers Meet in Brussels"]

[Text] This year ends with an unprecedented event—staged at NATO's Brussels headquarters—in the sphere of East-West relations. The constituent session of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council [NACC]—an institute for regular consultations and meetings involving the 16 NATO countries and the six Central and East European states, including our country and the three Baltic states—will meet there tomorrow.

As you know, the initiative to set up this institute was submitted by the summit-level NATO Council session

held six weeks ago in Rome. It was a kind of response by the West to the in-depth changes in East Europe, primarily in the USSR, that have brought about a drastic reduction in military confrontation on the continent and opened the way to cooperation with former adversaries behind the "Iron Curtain."

Naturally, issues pertaining to the preparations for the "Forum of the 25" were central to today's NATO Council session in Brussels at the foreign minister level. The ministers approved the alliance's plan of cooperation proposals that covers in particular areas like military planning, control over disarmament, and settlement of crisis situations. But this is only an "initiative." The final decisions on areas and forms of cooperation and on the procedure for the activity of the NACC itself will be made by all its participants.

The constituent session will approve a joint declaration by the "25." During a special briefing journalists were told how it was formulated. Numerous addenda and amendments were made to the initial draft submitted by the alliance's headquarters, reflecting the positions espoused by the other participants in the future council. This was done in Belgium at the level of the ambassadors, who have the power to maintain permanent contacts with NATO.

The NACC's constituent session is to be held at foreign minister level. The appropriate invitation was sent to our minister. It turned out that E. Shevardnadze would go. However, the events of the last few days—the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the statements regarding the end of the USSR's existence—are naturally changing the situation. The Soviet Union or its successor, like everyone else, will have one seat on the NACC. But who is to represent us at tomorrow's constituent session? This is an extremely complex question both in terms of essence and form. It is most likely that N. Afanasyevskiy, USSR ambassador to Belgium, who is empowered to implement ties with NATO, will be entrusted with this delicate mission.

What subjects, apart from the adoption of a declaration, will be the top priority at the session? I put this question to a high-ranking NATO spokesman today. "Mainly, the subject that is causing everyone disquiet," he said, "is nuclear weapons in Europe. This is undoubtedly due to the situation in the former USSR, where the problem of ensuring unified control over and the nonproliferation of these weapons has still not been fitted into a framework of 'unassailable guarantees.' All the meeting's participants will be able to set out their views on the problem of nuclear weapons on the continent and this will spark off a totally new process—the exchange of opinions within the framework of the 'Forum of the 25.' The NACC's first working session, scheduled for February, will be held in the wake of the constituent session."

Today's NATO Council session also discussed other issues pertaining to the new situation on the continent, including the question of the alliance's cooperation with the CSCE process. Prior to the CSCE conference in Helsinki next March, the intention is to formulate the NATO countries' common position with consideration for the elimination of bloc lines in Europe.

Report on 'International Review' Program

LD1912191791

[Editorial Report] Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian at 1330 GMT on 15 December broadcasts its regular weekly "International Review: The World This Week" program. The panel consists of announcer Valentin Gubernatorov; Boris Mikhaylovich Khalosha, doctor of historical science of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations; and Viktor Levin. The topics are NATO changes; European unification; and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Khalosha says Western fears following the break-up of the USSR are understandable and well-founded. NATO wants to strengthen security and stability; for instance, by setting up a Euro-Atlantic community. The Commonwealth of Independent States marks the beginning of a long-waited process of reintegration of the fraternal republics. A unified command will be preserved. NATO could become a political and even a political-economic organization. All this is a good thing. Our country and those of Central and Eastern Europe are now seen not as potential enemies, but as equal partners.

Levin says that in Western Europe something like a United States of Europe is being created, but it would be more accurate to speak of a union of West European republics and constitutional monarchies, but a union which is essentially a new formation like a federation. In Western Europe, a process of unification is taking place while in Eastern Europe, especially in our country, there is a process of disintegration.

Gubernatorov talks about aiding less developed countries of the Common Market.

"This is one further refutation of our postulates of the merciless exploitation, the plundering nature of capitalism, and so on and so forth," Levin says. "I do not believe in the idea of idealizing capitalism. It is a very tough system, but at the same time it is a system which is now, first of all, looking ahead considerably further than it used to. Second, it cannot help taking into account the interests of the weak."

Levin refers to his country and says: "A kind of single economic space is being created. The agreement of the three presidents of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus is to create this economic space, but what about the political superstructure? Yes, this political superstructure will come when it is in keeping with the interests not only of these three republics, but of all who join this Commonwealth. We must start with the economy."

Olympic Committee Backs Republican Entries

OW2012014991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2000 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] [no dateline as received] The USSR Olympic Committee [OC] backed on Thursday the applications by the Olympic federations of Georgia, Armenia, and Moldova for membership in the International Olympic Committee [IOC]. That was announced at a press-conference in Moscow by the USSR OC Vitaliy Surkov who said former Union republics will send joint teams to the coming winter and summer Olympic Games. He informed the press that Jan 14-16, 1992 the IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch will visit the Baltic Republics. March 9 in Lausanne he will meet with spokesmen of the republics' Olympic Committees to discuss protocol, particularly under what flag and anthem the joint team is to participate in the games.

At the coming winter Olympics the joint team will probably include Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. Ukraine has applied, though, for the IOC as an independent member.

The joint team will have an "economic" emblem designed by "Studio-6", Switzerland, said Smirnov.

United States & Canada

Baker Visit 'Useful'; 'Positive' Ties Noted

LD2012000491 Moscow TASS in English 2253 GMT 19 Dec 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow December 19 TASS—The working visit of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to the USSR which ended on Thursday was useful both for the American side and for Union and republican authorities who played host to him, a high ranking Soviet diplomat told TASS on Thursday.

The secretary of state met top leaders of the former Union and sovereign republics—Russia, Kyrgyzia, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Ukraine. The sides wished to analyse changes that took place in the country, compare them to the experience of Soviet-American relations and determine how U.S. relations will be developing with new sovereign states and what role they would play in future in the international arena. The U.S. side did not hide its concern over the situation developing in our country, particularly as regards the future control over nuclear arsenals. During conversations at various levels Baker was told about the wish to continue economic cooperation and get U.S. aid at this trying time.

The Soviet diplomat believes continuity of the Soviet Union's foreign policy will be preserved. Although the country can no longer play the role on the international arena it played five or six years ago, Washington is apparently aware that the country is of essential importance in a number of international problems if only for the reason that it has a prestige and experience in dealing with those countries with which the U.S. has not estalished relations so far. This refers particularly to the Middle East settlement.

The diplomat said it is extremely important not to squander the positive potential which has accumulated in relations with the U.S, particularly in the recent years. This suits the interests of Russian and other sovereign countries and they would use and develop the accumulated experience, the diplomat said.

Nevada Nuclear Tests Continue Despite Cuts

PM1912132191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Dec 91 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Nevada: Nuclear Tests Are Not Being Discontinued"]

[Text] San Francisco, 17 Dec—The U.S. Department of Energy plans to reduce the production of nuclear weapons will not have an immediate impact on underground nuclear explosions at the test range in Nevada. James Watkins, U.S. secretary of energy, announced this at a news conference with journalists in Las Vegas (Nevada) Monday [16 December].

In his words, plans for cutbacks in production programs and reduction of nuclear weapons stocks became possible thanks to the significant changes taking place in the Soviet Union. As a result, the numerical strength of workers and employees in industrial installations in 12 states where nuclear weapons are manufactured in the country will be halved by the year 2005.

At the same time, as Chris West, another representative of the department, pointed out, the importance of the test range is being preserved even in the face of the reduction of nuclear stocks. He said that it will still be necessary to carry out tests of the remaining weapons to ensure their safety and improve their features. "The weapons that remain will become more important than ever before," he noted. "The administration's policy proceeds on the basis of the fact that tests of nuclear weapons will be necessary as long as there are stocks of these weapons."

Plans for Cuts in U.S. SAC Personnel Noted

PM1912143191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Dec 91 First Edition p 5

["Own Information" TASS report under the general heading "Foreign Military Chronicle": "Cuts Announced"]

[Text] The U.S. Air Force leadership has reported on imminent cuts in 1992-1993 in the number of personnel in one of the most important components in the U.S.

strategic forces—the Strategic Air Command [SAC]. As U.S. Air Force Secretary Rice noted, the cuts will be carried out within the framework of a previously announced Air Force reorganization program.

According to him, the personnel of the SAC management components, first and foremost the military and civilian employees of control centers and Air Force staff bases under SAC jurisdiction, will be subject to cuts. So, for example, the number of personnel at Offutt Air Force Base (Nebraska), which has been the SAC main control center since 1948, will be cut by one-fourth and will affect around 9,500 servicemen and 1,400 civilians by the end of 1993.

U.S. Aid 'Restrained' by Voter Disinterest

PM1912125191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Dec 91 Union Edition p 5

[Report by A. Shalnev in New York and E. Guseynov in Moscow: "Where Paris Differs From Washington"]

[Text] "It is perfectly natural that here in Europe it is easier to see what is happening right next to us that from a distance of 5,000 km, and, moreover, on the other side of an ocean."

In these terms French President Francois Mitterrand justified his negative attitude to G. Bush's idea of convening an international conference in Washington on the issue of aid to the former USSR during a television interview on the "Sept sur Sept" program.

In Mitterrand's opinion, this sort of conference would not be very effective, and hence would be unnecessary. In this connection he reminded viewers that it is European countries that have already offered the republics of the collapsed USSR most of the aid they have received, without needing to hold solemn conferences.

Mitterrand's position was immediately supported by Jacques Delors, president of the EC Commission. In an interview with the private radio station RTL, he explained that 78 percent of all aid given to East European countries and 80 percent of aid given to the USSR is coming from EC members. At the same time the United States and Japan, according to Delors, have thus far refrained from taking real steps in this direction, despite numerous EC appeals.

Why the Europeans Are Against the Idea

The Europeans' highly negative attitude to the U.S. President's undertaking is no accident. It is precisely the European states and the EC in particular that have invested quite a lot of effort and money in helping the former communist countries in East Europe to switch to a democratic society and market economy. Now nobody in West Europe wants to share the fruits of their efforts with the Americans, who up to now have done nothing in real terms to help the East.

The Europeans are continuing to step up the allocation of funds to republics of the USSR, which has already disappeared from the political map. The 16 December EC finance ministers' meeting in Brussels decided to allocate $708 million to the Soviet Union as a gift (this is part of the aid worth $2.6 billion that the EC has has already promised the Soviet Union). A total of $650 million is being allocated in the form of food purchase credits, and $58.5 million are earmarked for direct aid to Moscow and St. Petersburg—which represents an advance on the figure of $260 million that has been promised to these cities.

It is revealing that in the United States itself, Bush's proposal has certainly not been greeted unequivocally.

Will Our Woes Become American Priorities

Ambassador Robert Strauss, an advocate of massive assistance to our country, characterized most precisely the essence of the attitude of U.S. public opinion on giving aid to the Soviet Union: "People will undoubtedly be asking themselves the question: 'Why the hell are we creating jobs there when we should be creating jobs here in America?'"

This question is in fact being asked both by the voters and by those who will be opposing George Bush in the fight for the President's job. Pat Buchanan, an archconservative commentator who is seeking to replace Bush as Republican Party nominee for the presidency, is convinced of the need to put a complete stop to any aid to foreign states including the Soviet Union. "Let the Europeans tackle European problems," he says. "Americans should be tackling American problems, which are far more serious."

Nobody denies that the economic situation in America is currently extremely grave—by U.S. standards, of course. Even in the White House, where they realize perfectly well that the outcome of next year's election is crucially dependent on how satisfied voters are with their financial and economic situation, and not at all on the situation in the former Soviet Union. It is naive to suppose that the aid package announced by Secretary of State Baker as he was preparing to leave for our country is anything more than the absolute minimum the administration can afford. The desire to help us is there, particularly in the case of the President himself. But the desire must be restrained to comply with the views of the the average voter, who is fully satisfied with Bush's foreign activity and not at all satisfied, judging by the results of the latest polls, with his domestic political activity and his economic policy in particular.

The voter will not be particularly offended that the United States has decided to hand over to us freight that remained unclaimed after the Persian Gulf war. But it is no use asking him for anything more substantial, neither him, nor the fairly large number of congressmen who believe that the Soviet Union's woes should top the list of administration priorities.

China

PRC Spokesman Discusses USSR Situation

PM2012112291 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Dec 91 First Edition p 3

[TASS correspondent S. Sorokin report under the general heading: "'We Respect the People's Choice'"]

[Text] Beijing, 19 Dec—"The situation in the Soviet Union is still changing, and China is observing its development. We will develop relations with the states that have declared their independence. It is still our unchanging position to maintain relations with all countries on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence," Wu Jianmin, chief of the PRC Foreign Ministry Information Department, stated here today at the weekly briefing for Chinese and foreign journalists. He was commenting on the question of whether China intends to establish relations with the Asian republics that formerly belonged to the Soviet Union.

Defining—at the request of a Chinese correspondent—China's attitude to the possible breakup of the USSR by the end of this year, the Foreign Policy Department spokesman stressed the PRC's unchanged position; namely, noninterference in other states' internal affairs. "We respect the choice made by the people of every country," he noted.

Ulan-Ude Plant Sells Helicopters to PRC

PM2012110691 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Dec 91 First Edition p 1

[By TASS correspondent A. Subbotin: "Success for Defense Workers"]

[Text] Ulan-Ude, 19 Dec—The Ulan-Ude Aircraft Association, a major defense complex enterprise, has literally flown onto the foreign market. Today it carried out its first direct delivery to the PRC of three Mi-8T helicopters assembled by the labor collective over and above the state order. The plant's test pilots "ferried" the rotary-wing machines to the Chinese client. The three harbingers show that, given a sensible approach to conversion, it is also possible to earn quite a lot of money abroad.

Northeast Asia

DPRK-ROK Accord 'Important Breakthrough'

PM2012090991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Dec 91 p 4

[Vsevolod Ovchinnikov article under the "My Opinion" rubric: "Breakthrough in Seoul"]

[Text] The prime ministers of the two Korean states have agreed in Seoul to sign an armistice, nonaggression, exchanges, and cooperation agreement. The document reduces to a common denominator both sides' positions and approaches, which were long considered incompatible. The North was insisting that the threat of military confrontation be eliminated in the first place, while the South was primarily seeking broader opportunities for contacts. So the Seoul accord—the outcome of the fifth round of the inter-Korean dialogue at the level of heads of government—can be assessed, in my opinion, as an important breakthrough on the path to peace and security in the Asia and Pacific region.

The Korean peninsula has ended up a remnant of the "cold war," as it were. Although the flames of the conflict that flared up in the fifties were extinguished, it was not genuine peace but a shaky armistice that was established on Korean soil. The North is keeping 1.2 million men under arms along the line of military confrontation, and the South 650,000 men plus 39,000 Americans. The nuclear component is particularly dangerous in this confrontation. U.S. garrisons on the peninsula are equipped with tactical nuclear weapons. Lance missile complexes, F-16 fighter-bombers, and self-propelled howitzers serve as their delivery vehicles. In all, this arsenal contains some 100 warheads.

On the other hand, U.S. intelligence maintains that the DPRK could become a nuclear power in just two years, having developed the necessary capacity to produce plutonium. U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney believes that Pyongyang's ambitions pose "the biggest threat to security in Northeast Asia." Therefore, it was decided to suspend U.S. troop reduction on the peninsula from 39,000 to 30,000 men and also to increase the scale of the annual Team Spirit maneuvers.

This time the latest types of arms used against Iraq will be mobilized in the maneuvers; in particular, F-117 Stealth fighter-bombers and Patriot missile complexes. After the exercises they might be left in South Korea in the event of a nuclear missile strike from the North. Cautioning Pyongyang, Washington made it clear that it does not rule out strong-arm military methods. And, in the opinion of U.S. commentators, a new version of operation Desert Storm would benefit Bush at the height of his election campaign.

Washington's decision to evacuate all U.S. tactical nuclear means sited in other states has somewhat eased the tension. Hopes have been raised as a result of the unraveling of the most complex knot in relations between North and South Korea and facilitating the reunification of the divided nation. Pyongyang has officially declared that if the United States really removes its nuclear potential from Korean soil, this will make it possible to proclaim the Korean Peninsula a nuclear-free zone—something for which the DPRK has long campaigned.

Although North Korea has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, it has been unwilling to admit IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] inspectors until the United States starts removing its nuclear charges from the south of the peninsula. As they are all tactical ones, this process has already begun, and it is planned to officially

announce its completion during Bush's January visit to Seoul. So Pyongyang has no grounds for objecting to IAEA inspections, especially as the United States is prepared to open up its own military installations for them.

I believe that the fact that the two Korean states simultaneously joined the United Nations last summer contributed to the accords in Seoul. This undoubtedly enhanced the DPRK's international prestige and opened up the way for it to normalize relations with Japan and the United States. It is well known that even prior to that, Seoul had exchanged ambassadors with Moscow and is also seeking to do so with Beijing. Now that the two Korean states' ties with the region's leading powers have acquired a reliable legal basis, favorable preconditions are emerging for the country's reunification and, to begin with, for the Korean Peninsula's transformation into a nuclear-free zone. This would undoubtedly be promoted by a meeting between Presidents Kim Il-song and No Tae-u, a topic that was also discussed in Seoul.

Most-Favored-Nation Status for ROK in 1992

SK2012005391 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1330 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] The Soviet Union will give the ROK most-favored-nation treatment in the area of customs clearance, beginning 1 January 1992. This was revealed by (Yelbakov), chairman of the Soviet Customs Committee, who is now in the ROK on an official visit.

According to him, an exceptional customs clearance system will be enforced on ROK export goods to the Soviet Union. Customs clearance officials from the Soviet Customs Committee will clear customs on ROK export goods directly in ROK ports before they are shipped to the Soviet Union. Such a customs clearance system has been used only for the United States.

Mongolia Denies Oil Supply Cut From USSR

LD1912203391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0340 GMT 16 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Dugar Sanzhiyev]

[Text] Ulaanbaator, 16 Dec (TASS)—Zh. Oyuyungerel, director general of the Mongolian Nefteimport Association, described as groundless those rumors circulating to the effect that supplies of fuel and lubrication materials from the USSR will be suspended starting next year. Nevertheless, he warned that the volume of deliveries might be reduced in 1992, about which the Soviet partners were informed by the association in advance. The statement by the head of Mongolia's oil supply organization is published in the latest issue of the "TSAG UYE" information bulletin, published by the MONTSAME agency. The Nefteimport Association is drawing up measures to obtain oil products in other countries. In particular, the Chinese Sinokhimi Company has accepted our request, Zh. Oyuyungerel announced.

East Europe

Albania's Alia on Market Economy Transition

PM1912150091 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Dec 91 p 5

[Interview with Ramiz Alia, president of the Republic of Albania, by special correspondent Leonid Kuznetsov in Tirana; date not given: "There Are Difficulties, and Major Ones...."]

[Text] The office of the Albanian head of state is located in a building on Fallen Fighters Avenue. We waited for a while in a reception area. Then we were invited to the second floor. He is a man of average height, stocky, with slicked-down gray hair, and a high forehead. His movements are unhurried. He wears a severe brown suit. Ramiz Alia smiled broadly and affably and said in Russian: "Welcome."

[Kuznetsov] The calendar year is ending, but for the Republic of Albania it has been a year of democratic transformations. How do you assess its results?

[Alia] Albania is making the transition from a centralized to a market economy, from one social system to another. Of course, this is accompanied by great difficulties—political, economic, social. During this year there have undoubtedly been important changes in the democratic processes.

[Kuznetsov] What are they?

[Alia] Above all, People's Assembly elections were held. A government was formed with the participation of representatives from five parties. This is a substantial achievement in Albanian political life. In addition, a number of laws were adopted aimed at ensuring and guaranteeing human rights and regulating measures to promote economic reforms.

[Kuznetsov] How is work on the transition to a market economy progressing?

[Alia] We are indeed embarking on this transition. (The president pondered for a minute, then continued). Of course, there are difficulties, major ones. They are exacerbated by the environment of the transitional period. At present, we have neither a planned economy nor a market economy. There is neither a capitalist nor a socialist system. All this is creating a very complex situation. In addition, the legacy of the past is also making itself felt. It cannot fail to have a negative influence on the current processes and the present situation in the country. It is grave, and this is borne out by the recent government crisis. It was caused by a violation of the accords among the parties on a joint concerted policy of the government's activity. The crisis was precipitated by representatives of the Democratic Party. But we do not doubt that a way out of the present situation will be found. We will form a cabinet of

ministers, which will not be a government of several parties. Nor will it be a government of one party. It will be a working government.

[Kuznetsov] How do you assess the state of Albanian-Soviet relations and their prospects under the new conditions?

[Alia] Albanian-Soviet relations have their own history. There have been both good times and bad, but we should think about the future.

West Europe

Gorbachev, FRG's Kohl Hold Phone Conversation

LD2012121591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1155 GMT 20 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Semenov]

[Text] Bonn, 20 Dec (TASS)—A telephone conversation took place today between FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl and USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev. As journalists were told by Norbert Schaefer, deputy spokesman of the FRG Government, they discussed the situation in the USSR on the eve of the Alma-Ata meeting of former Soviet republic presidents. Schaefer said that he did not know the details of the "lengthy telephone conversation" that was initiated by Chancellor Kohl.

Ethnic Germans Offered Site for Settlements

LD1912220791 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1920 GMT 19 Dec 91

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Soviet Defence Ministry is ready to turn over Kapustin Yar test site for the construction of German settlements. At present only one test ground is being used there for firing ground-to-air missile complexes. Soon an international commission will conduct an ecological examination on the territory of the test site. The volume of investments of the German side to the construction of German settlements on the territory of Russia depends on the results of the examination. According to specialists from the Soviet Defence Ministry, the ecological situation at the test site is quite normal.

UK Filmmaker Interviewed on Documentary

PM1912162491 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 49, 8-15 Dec 91 p 6

[Report on interview with British journalist Masha Slonim by Yelena Chekalova; place and date not given: "Neither Second Nor Russian, Not Even a Revolution, But All the Same Captivating"]

[Text] In those prime hours of November, when Central TV was chewing up yet another series of the cut-and-dried "Past Experiences", when Vlad Listyev with a standard smile on his face kept exclaiming: "There is such a letter in this word", and when "Fantomas", seemed to have finally and irrevocably flown into a rage on Channel One screens, Russian TV was showing the episodes (there have been four of them so far) of the BBC's eight-part documentary epic titled "The Second Russian Revolution". I must say that RTV did not miscalculate in having believed in TV viewers' intellectual capabilities: the BBC serial ranked first in the latest TV ratings. Why do others succeed in achieving whatever is always beyond us—making films that are equally interesting for a professor and a housewife? I addressed this question to one of the makers of this film, British journalist Masha Slonim.

"I often think about this when I watch your TV. Why are all of your so-called serious programmes so dull? Our viewers would not have endured such long programmes as "Fifth Wheel", "VID", ATV. I believe that your TV journalists talk all they like on the air, absolutely indifferent to whether anyone wants to listen to them. It is such unbearable self-indulgence and self-complacency which can only mean that you are not prepared for market relations. You don't understand: time is money. Not only because air time and TV equipment as such are expansive. The TV viewer's time is costly, too. A professional would not put an hour-long interview on the air."

[Chekalova] Yet, our interviews are made by the best people, Urmas Ott, for one.

[Slonim] When a journalist is unable to delete and select, he is not a professional. We have about 500 hours of material for each of the 55-minutes-long series. We felt very sorry for many pieces, yet we discarded them. All the time we bore in mind that the spectator cannot concentrate for longer than 15 minutes. And to make a film attractive, we must constantly pay attention to the change of pictures, genres and impressions.

[Chekalova] Is the heading also predicated on the spectators' interests? After all, in actual fact, it is neither the second nor, strictly speaking, Russian, and not really a revolution.

[Slonim] We are aware of the title being conventional. And this conventionality really hampered us as we were shooting in your Republics. But our viewer really knows only that Russia had the October Revolution and now some other revolution is underway. We simply wanted to evoke an immediate interest.

[Chekalova] How much did the film cost?

[Slonim] By our standards the budget was fairly modest. The initial proposal—six series—cost us something like two million dollars. The film was made by Brian Laping Associates, a small independent TV company which owes its fame to highly conscientious documentary films. It offered the project to the BBC, but it is only jointly with America's Discovery and one Japanese firm that the budget could be met.

[Chekalova] Has the film turned a profit?

[Slonim] In general it has. It has been bought by practically all European countries. In Britain and the USA it has already been shown—twice.

[Chekalova] Many of our viewers were struck by the fact that instead of the expected detached point-of-view we saw the events subjectively as well. One fact would be shown from different angles, even from the standpoint of the country's leaders. How did you succeed in achieving such accurate linkups in editing?

[Slonim] The whole point is in very careful work. After all, we worked for two years. At first the film makers (chief producer Norma Persy, director Mark Anderson) got down to reading everything—books, verbatim reports and articles on the USSR. For instance, from one American magazine we fished out the fact that Gorbachev met with his associates at the Pyatigorsk railway station, and already outlined the plan for his advent to power. Then, a preliminary script was written and the concept delineated: to peep behind the Kremlin scenes and try to grasp the mechanism of decision making at the very top.

[Chekalova] Such an audacious scenario would not have occurred to any of our people in 1989.

[Slonim] Honestly, knowing the USSR better than Norma Persy, I initially believed that it was impossible. But everything came about due to our producers' naivete. For them nothing is impossible. We bombarded everyone we could with letters—from Abalkin to Yakovlev, from the Central Committee to the democrats. Then there were two preliminary trips. We spoke both to those who were ultimately left behind the frame and to our future heroes without microphones and cameras. For instance, even during our first trip Ryzhkov consented rather quickly to meet with us—he had promised us 15 minutes, but stayed for two hours. Everything was extremely interesting. Not that he disclosed some sensational facts, but simply very human touches. I regretted having no camera with us. Indeed, later we couldn't arrange a meeting with him for an entire 18 months. And then, after all preliminary talks, we wrote a detailed scipt and only following this did we set out to do the shooting.

[Chekalova] How did you manage to get access to the first persons? Did you pay?

[Slonim] No, we did not. We got the upper hand by laying siege to them. To secure an interview with Gorbachev, I phoned Chernyayev, his aide, for about a year—at a quarter to eight every day. The BBC trademark had a part to play, of course. After all, your leaders are already concerned about their image in the West. As to your own journalists, in the past the leaders took them for domestic servants. Now, they dread their aggressiveness. Your journalists are on the attack all the time, trying to ensnare a person, as if knowing advance that he would conceal the main points—hence your leaders' protective reaction. We for our part went to them without schemes and prejudices as to which persons were interesting for us: they had taken part in the making of history. We simply asked them about specific facts which we had collected at the preliminary stage.

[Chekalova] But it is precisely specific details that our leaders hate discussing. They are fond of discoursing in general terms.

[Slonim] Oh, we had plenty of that. We gave them a chance to speak their mind. An interview would last for three or four hours. Ligachev, for example, came and told us in a very businesslike manner that he had 20 minutes to spare and no more, but he stayed for three hours. Later we again translated this into concrete facts. For instance, Yuriy Rost once told us about Andropov's testament, and when we asked Volskiy about this, we got a fantastic story.

[Chekalova] Gorbachev did not deny that meeting in Pyatigorsk, did he?

[Slonim] No, he didn't. Very dryly he told us that it had taken place—and switched over to something else.

[Chekalova] And did you catch anyone telling the undisguised untruth?

[Slonim] Ligachev flatly denied having arranged a conference of newspaper chief editors right after Nina Andreyeva's letter, though we had evidence from its immediate participants. And very many dodged answers. For example, strange though it was, Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev—he never said who on the Politburo was opposed to Sakharov's return from exile. Shevardnadze, too, was very restrained. And, of course all of the first person's aides—through they gave us some interesting information, they were outspoken solely within the framework of what was permitted.

[Chekalova] And the most outspoken were the old-age pensioners?

[Slonim] I wouldn't say that. Romanov generally slipped away from us. And the most staggering impression was produced by Bakatin. We met for the first time when he was Minister of the Interior. Already at that time we understood that he was not at all a typical apparatchik. And later, during our subsequent meetings, we saw how he was growing, getting an ever deeper insight into the goings-on. Yet I see our greatest breakthrough in the fact that we compelled even the most apparat-minded people to say "I" instead of "we". After all, it only seems that Grishin, Vorotnikov or Dolgikh are elderly and dull people. We used to come and listen to them. And it turned out that everyone of them had at least one stupendous story to tell.

[Chekalova] The success of your picture in the USSR—did it come as a surprise for you?

[Slonim] Absolutely, although later we came to understand that people were always interested in stories on the life of high society. Your party leadership, the Politburo, happened to be your royal court—and you knew practically nothing about its palace games.

Cyprus Loan Delayed by 'Legal Irregularities'

LD2012101491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1639 GMT 16 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Viktor Doroshenko]

[Text] Nicosia, 16 Dec (TASS)—Cyprus is willing to fulfill the agreement to make available to Moscow credits worth $50 million for the purchase of Cypriot foodstuffs only when individual legal irregularities have been removed. According to the latest statements by representatives of the island's administration it appears that the problem amounts to the fact that the agreement was signed this past summer of this year on behalf of the "now nonexistent Soviet Union".

The Vneshekonombank was the guarantor for the implementation of the Soviet-Cypriot agreement. Now, however, that financial institution has changed its status and the conditions of the agreement require some amendment, it is noted in local business circles. For example, it was planned that 70 percent of Cypriot food exports would be accounted for by Russia, while other republics in the USSR would purchase the remaining 30 percent. In this connection Cypriot experts hope that the Russian Government will take upon itself the implementation of the whole of the purchase program in full.

Latin America & Caribbean

Managua Criticized for Defaulting on Loans

PM2012113391 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Dec 91 p 4

[Pavel Bogomolov report under the "Photo Fact" rubric: "Debt Canceled by... Debtor. Does Managua Wish To Renounce Its Debts to Moscow Unilaterally?"]

[Text] "Nicaragua will never be able to repay its debt to the Soviet Union," Antonio Lacayo, presidency minister of this Latin American country, has declared categorically. It would be rash to ignore his words, for behind them lies the huge figure of $3 billion.

So, "Nicaragua will never be able...." But, one wonders, why? Maybe because the USSR no longer exists? Or did Senor Minister suddenly feel like an oracle capable of divining the economic situation in his country even in the new millennium? Incidentally, why not ask Moscow about the possibility of a temporary deferment?

"Nicaragua," the minister went on, "is not in a position to pay, as it has been practically ruined by the war." Let us assume that this is so, particularly as we have traditionally shown solidarity with the Nicaraguans in all their trials, starting with the unfortunate earthquake that destroyed Managua under Somoza's dictatorship.

Incidentally, despite all the burdens, Nicaragua has officially abandoned its suit at the International Court in The Hague to force the United States to pay $13 billion in compensation for the damage inflicted during the years of the "undeclared war." Curious, is it not?

It is also typical that the statement by the Nicaraguan minister described the Soviet aid given over many years in the past as "exclusively political." It has generally become fashionable in Nicaragua to reduce this whole issue to the tanks and helicopters sent to arm the Sandinista People's Army. But what about our deliveries of flour, rice, canned goods, tractors, excavators, and automobiles? Or did the tasty cookies in the streets of Managua also have a political aftertaste?

The truth is that even before the start of large-scale combat operations against the contras, Nicaragua had received preferential commercial credits from us: to the tune of $50 million in September 1981, $100 million in May 1982, and so on.

Supreme Soviet

Alimzhanov Reports on Meeting With Gorbachev

PM1912155391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Dec 91 Union Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Russian Parliament Changes the Guard in the Kremlin"]

[Text] The specter of the sailor [revolutionary hero] Zheleznyak continues to hover over the Union parliament. At the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Republics session morning sitting 18 December, A. Alimzhanov, chairman of the chamber, told his colleagues about the results of the meeting held the day before between the Union parliament leaders and USSR President M. Gorbachev. According to A. Alimzhanov, at this meeting, M. Gorbachev expounded his views on events of recent days, and he also informed parliamentarians of the content of his letter to all the heads of the states participating in the scheduled meeting in Alma-Ata. The letter speaks notably of the need to preserve the continuity of supreme representative power, and to carry out this process constitutionally so that the last session of the USSR Supreme Soviet can conclude its work. The letter also contains observations on the text of the agreement on the Commonwealth of Independent States and proposes that at least one interstate structure be kept—the Soviet of the Republics.

This meeting, as A. Alimzhanov reported, in many respects quelled the alarm that had appeared among Union parliament leaders following rumors that the Russian parliament had abolished the USSR Supreme Soviet, and also in connection with the resolution on the transfer of Union parliament property to the jurisdiction of the Russian parliament prepared by the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium. However, toward the end of 17 December a document was produced in the Russian parliament which, according to the chairman of the Soviet of the Republics, has made the Russian leadership's relations not just with the Union parliament but also with the republics represented in parliament significantly more complex. This document is the RSFSR Soviet Supreme Soviet Presidium Resolution "On Certain Questions Connected with the Recall of RSFSR Deputies' Groups from the USSR Supreme Soviet."

In connection with the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the document says, and its recognition by a number of former Union republics, as well as the abolition of organs of the former USSR on the territories of the Commonwealth member states and on the basis of the RSFSR Law "On the Provision of an Economic Basis for RSFSR Sovereignty," the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium resolves: to transfer to the authority of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet all buildings and constructions that previously belonged to the USSR Supreme Soviet, including residential premises and treatment, health, and medical organizations and other institutions with real estate and movable property. Financial resources in rubles and foreign currency in banks and insurance and joint stock companies are also being transferred to the Russian Parliament's jurisdiction. In order to fulfill this decision a liquidation commission has been set up under N. Ryabov, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Republic. The Russian Central Bank, the RSFSR Foreign Trade Bank, and the RSFSR Ministry of Economics and Finances are being ordered to record all the financial resources of the USSR Supreme Soviet in rubles and currency within 24 hours and suspend their use until a special instruction is issued by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet chairman. The administration for the protection of the installations of RSFSR supreme organs of state power and management have been instructed to adopt measures to protect Union parliament buildings, constructions, enterprises, and organizations. The document has entered into force from the moment of its signing.

A. Alimzhanov described the adoption of this resolution as the last stage of lawlessness, as a step that is not only unconstitutional but also insulting to the republics whose deputations are still in the Union parliament. He instructed the deputies to continue working. The chairman of the upper chamber himself announced his intention to immediately inform the heads of the states represented in the parliament about the action taken by the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium.

It stands to reason that, following such a report, heated debate flared up in the Soviet of the Republics. Many deputies took the Russian Parliament's step as an insult and called on their colleagues to immediately leave the Kremlin. However, by all accounts the majority of members of the chamber were inclined to adopt a final decision on their own future only following the conclusion of the Alma-Ata meeting.

Describes Russian Resolution

PM1912145591 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Dec 91 First Edition p 1

[Report by parliamentary observer Robert Minasov Kremlin: "At the Union Parliament: If You Are Going—Go"]

[Text] "The last stage in lawlessness"—that was how Anuarbek Alimzhanov, chairman of the former USSR's Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Republics, harshly described the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Resolution "On Certain Questions Linked with Recalling RSFSR Deputies' Groups from the USSR Supreme Soviet" at yesterday's session of the former USSR's Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Republics.

Alimzhanov read out the text of the resolution to representatives of the remaining five Union republics—Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenia, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan—present in the hall, and said that he would immediately convey the text of this document to the heads of the above states.

Then a discussion of the emergent situation started up, although there were at most only 40 of the 174 people's deputies were present in the hall (perhaps that is why registration did not take place, contrary to standing orders). Many of the speakers did not hide their irritation and indignation at the substance of the resolution. In particular, Deputy Yakubov urged parliamentarians to show restraint and prudence. He said that it is necessary to leave the Kremlin with dignity.

There was also criticism of RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin, as well as of L. Kravchuk and S. Shushkevich, which has become something of a ritual in the Union parliament.

The Soviet of the Republics decided to issue an appeal to the leaders of the three states—Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine—saying: "Your treaty has created a good basis for an Economic Community of all sovereign states that expressed a desire at the Ashkhabad meeting to jointly found the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]. In this connection we appeal to you, Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich, Stanislav Stanislavovich, and Leonid Makarovich, to personally attend the Alma-Ata talks 21 December. And to discuss all the proposals and amendments that the leaders of our states have sent you and, taking these proposals and amendments into account, to sign a new agreement in Alma-Ata on the creation of the CIS."

At the last moment the following proposal was deleted from the text of the appeal: "At the same time we appeal to the parliaments of Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine to reratify the existing Agreement." However, as we can see, the final lines of the new version contain the gist of it.

So, the session of the Soviet of the Republics gave a fairly insistent reason for the agreement on the creation of the CIS, which has already been signed and has entered into force, to be reratified. Parliamentarians also adopted a statement in which they viewed with understanding the agreement adopted by Belarus, Ukraine, and the RSFSR on the creation of the CSI. At the same time the Soviet of the Republics "thinks that transition from the Union state system to the CIS and legal continuity in the activity of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Commonwealth's coordinating institutes must be implemented solely on a legal basis. Anticonstitutional actions with regard to the USSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR president are inadmissible."

This is most likely my last report from the former USSR's former Supreme Soviet.

'Winding Up' Commission Tasks Viewed

LD2012113791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1940 GMT 19 Dec 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Dec (TASS)—The winding up commision has two tasks: to resolve the problem of the future of USSR Supreme Soviet deputies and the fate of the property of the former USSR Supreme Soviet. This was stated by Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Council of the Republic of the Russian parliament and chairman of the winding up commission. He had a meeting today with journalists in the House of Soviets of Russia.

Speaking of the Commission's first measures, Nikolay Ryabov said that the premises and property of the USSR Supreme Soviet have been taken under control, energetic actions by the financial and economic directorates have been organized, in particular, to resolve the problems of the union parliament's staff who number over 900.

According to Ryabov, the first variant has been prepared of the draft resolution, "On ensuring the realization of the status of the peoples deputies of the USSR elected from the territory of the Russian Federation," and this will be examined at the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and Russian parliament sessions. The normative acts of status of people's deputies of the RSFSR will be extended to people's deputies of the USSR from territories and national- territorial constituencies. People's deputies of the USSR will be able to participate in the work of the Congress, committees, and commissions, with the right to a consultative vote on a nonpermanent basis.

As far as USSR people's deputies from other republics are concerned, the chairman of the commission said that their problems will be resolved by agreement with the former Union republics at the expense of the RSFSR budget, with the expenses later being reimbursed by the union republics.

A statement by Konstantin Lubenchenko, chairan of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, was distributed in Moscow today. It says, in particular, that on 19 December, a violation of their constitutional rights was committed against USSR people's deputies and members of the USSR Supreme Soviet staff. USSR people's deputies and members of staff were searched by representatives of the security department of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet.

Lubenchenko categorically rejected rumors that such actions were carried out on his orders and stressed that they violated the status and civic rights of USSR people's deputies. According to him, the winding up commission "guarantees that such actions will not be carried out in the future and offers its apologies for the incidents that took place."

Deputies Address Alma-Ata Meeting Participants

LD1912211891 Moscow TASS in English 1956 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow December 19 TASS—A group of Soviet people's deputies addressed participants in the December 21 meeting in Alma-Ata urging them to take advantage of "a multinational popular representation in the face of Soviet parliamentarians" during the transition period.

The Alma-Ata meeting is expected to work on the general outline of the new Commonwealth of Independent States.

The message, signed on behalf of MPs [member of parliament] by People's Deputy Vladimir Samarin, stresses the need "also to use the state structures that were proposed for the transition period in the statement by heads of ten states and the Soviet president at the fifth extraordinary Congress of USSR People's Deputies," along with the creation of new mechanisms of cooperation.

The message authors said the plebiscite was not possible today and called for convening the sixth extraordinary Congress of Soviet People's Deputies.

'Last' Plenary Session Expected To Be 24 Dec

PM2012111191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Dec 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by S. Chugayev: "USSR Supreme Soviet Acknowledges Political Realities"]

[Excerpts] The well-known decisions adopted by the Russian parliament with regard to the Union parliament presented a mighty incentive for stepping up the debates that have unfolded over the last few days in the USSR Supreme Soviet regarding the future of the top representative authority of the state that has ceased to exist. [passage omitted]

Contrary to fears, the "changing of the guard" in the Kremlin has had no effect on the activity of the USSR Supreme Soviet. It was announced that a plenary session will be held 24 December. There is every reason to think that it will be the last.

Political & Social

Gorbachev Sends Letter to Alma-Ata Meeting

'Moral and Political Right'

LD1912181691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1607 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Message from USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev to participants in the Alma-Ata meeting scheduled for 21 December]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Dec (TASS)—Here follows the full text of the letter sent by Mikhail Gorbachev to the participants of the Alma-Ata meeting on the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States:

Esteemed comrades! Prior to the meeting that will determine the future of new relations between new sovereign states and the place they will occupy together and individually in the world community, I would like to share with you some of my thoughts. I think I have a moral and political right to do so. The ratification of the agreement on the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States by the RSFSR, Ukrainian, and Belarussian Supreme Soviets, and the readiness of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenia to join the composition of founders of the Commonwealth have fundamentally changed the situation. The form of existence as a state of numerous peoples of this great country is starting its new history. Several independent states are being formed on its territory. The long and difficult historical process of forming the single country is being replaced by the process of its separation and dismemberment. It will not be an easy one, either; there should be no illusions in this regard. Evidently, society has not yet realized that this is a shift on a colossal scale which will affect the foundations of the life of peoples and citizens. Step by step, from the very beginning of perestroyka, we were heading for the genuine independence of all republics, but all the time I have insisted that country's disintegration is inadmissible. This was and remains my understanding of the people's will expressed at the referendum: Their striving for independence while preserving the integrity of the historical Union. This thought and this anxiety were the bases of my formula for a "Union of Sovereign States," which received your support initially.

I am not writing to you in order to return to the discussion of this subject. The idea of a Commonwealth of Independent States is now becoming a reality. It is important, vitally important, that this most complicated process should not intensify the destructive trends that have taken shape in society. After all, it is obvious to everyone that the transition will take place in a setting of the most profound economic, political, and interethnic crisis, and of a significant decline in living standards.

I have taken most seriously the contents of the documents adopted in Brest and Ashkhabad, and of the ratification resolutions of the Supreme Soviets of the three republics. In thinking about my ideas, I also have taken into account the public reaction inside and outside this country, and issues that remain open. The point of my ideas is to outline the minimum provisions without which I feel the Commonwealth cannot become viable in the present conditions. They include obvious things that you all recognize; let me note that right away, but I cannot fail to record them in my message, either.

1. The understanding of the Commonwealth as a multiethnic formation with absolute equality, not only of the states themselves, but of the nationalities living in them and of all religions, traditions, customs, and geopolitical locations, must be recorded clearly. Therefore, I feel that the most appropriate name for the Commonwealth is: "Commonwealth of European and Asian States" (CEAS).

2. It is insufficient merely to recognize officially the declaration of human rights and democratic freedoms. Given the unique distribution of populations over vast areas where for centuries the destinies of millions of families have mingled and crossed, and where there are tens of millions of mixed marriages, the problem of the

openness of borders and of citizenship needs to be studied particularly carefully.

I am convinced that everyone who is not infected with nationalism and separatism, and that means billions of people, will inevitably feel the loss of their "greater homeland." When the practical process begins of drawing up state, administrative, and other boundaries, and determining conditions of citizenship, it will affect very many people in the most direct manner—in their everyday lives, at work, and in human relations. For this reason it may be necessary to agree, for some fairly lengthy time, to the principle "citizen of the Commonwealth," together with citizenship of the respective states. I am afraid that unless this is all properly thought out, decided, and reliably guaranteed, the concept of the community will be rejected at the popular level.

3. Of decisive importance to the stability of the Commonwealth is the creation of a socially oriented market economy, and unrestricted development and protection of all forms of ownership. I share the view of those who believe it is essential to reiterate the determination of the participants in the Commonwealth to observe the Treaty on the Economic Community, and to complete work on a range of appendices providing the necessary conditions for the establishment of a common "Eurasian market." These should include coordinated measures on such important questions as the currency, financial and banking system, ways of setting prices and levying taxes, customs collection, budgetary appropriations for defense, and other common objectives.

I am convinced that appropriate structures are required for economic cooperation within the Commonwealth framework. I am also convinced of something else. All this will only be possible, and work to the benefit of citizens and peoples, if there are genuine guarantees for economic rights and individual freedoms, for their unconditional protection in law and in practice.

4. I can say with complete authority and knowledge of the country's integrated system of military-strategic security that the slightest attempt to dismantle this system would be fraught with calamity on an international scale. To assert the real sovereignty of the Commonwealth members there is absolutely no need to divide this extremely complex and extremely expensive system. The contracting parties should decide WITHOUT DELAY on structures for the single control and overall command of strategic forces—including all the main military components of a technical nature and those defense components of a scientific nature. Collective command is an absurd idea. Control over the condition and composition of the Armed Forces, and over conduct of a coordinated military policy, may, however, be collective. The problem of reshaping and reducing the Army's size also needs a joint decision. This is now a major SOCIAL problem. At the same time, this is a problem of political security on the territory of the entire country, to which the single Armed Forces still belong, as they have done from time immemorial.

5. The independent and sovereign functioning of each member of the Commonwealth on the international arena is valid in law. But if there is to be a Commonwealth—and this is a political entity—then it must also have political representation in the world community, along the lines of, say, the European Community, which is a subject in international law. Another reason why it is not possible to deny the Commonwealth this status is because it inherits from the USSR the status of nuclear superpower. It is no simple matter to get rid of such an legacy. Otherwise, there will be a breakdown in international trust, and the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, which all the sovereign members of the Commonwealth apparently undertook to confirm, will be violated.

I cannot see how it is possible to preserve a common strategic defense without at least a common foreign policy. The most sensible thing would be to have a structure for matters of external relations, adapting it to the needs and principles of the Commonwealth, including the question of membership of the UN Security Council.

Some very important documents of this epoch, such as declarations and treaties, were signed by the Union. There are 15,000 external economic agreements that are still valid. To cross it all out would mean to undermine the international prestige of the Commonwealth and its real interests right from the start.

Just as all the Commonwealth members evidently will confirm their adherence to the principles of modern democracy (free elections; separation of powers; political, ideological, religious pluralism; a state based on law; civil society; and human rights), they also must accept the foreign policy course based on the new thinking. It was recognized throughout the civilized world.

6. Irreparable damage will be inflicted on the spiritual development of all people, if the Commonwealth members do not agree right away on coordination (and on coordinating bodies) in the areas of science, the language of interethnic communication, preservation of monuments, means for the upkeep of museums, world class theaters, libraries, archives, major institutes, laboratories, observatories, and so on.

7. Regarding the succession procedure: A new era in the country's history needs to be started with dignity, with the norms of legitimacy observed. It is gross discontinuities, destructive revolutions, and usurpation methods in the course of social development that are the reasons for the historic misfortunes of our people. Both the prerequisites and the experience to act within a framework of democratic rules are there. That is why I would propose that after the ratification of the document regarding the Commonwealth and the exchange of ratification scrolls, a final meeting of the USSR Supreme Soviet should be held which would adopt its decision on the cessation of the Soviet Union's existence and the transfer of all its lawful rights and obligations to the Commonwealth of

European and Asian states. These are my most general thoughts. They have been dictated by responsibility for the ultimate success of the great cause started in 1985.

[Signed] M. Gorbachev
[Dated] 18 December 1991

Interviewed About Letter

LD1912200491 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 19 Dec 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Tatyana Komarova] Hello. Our "TV Inform" tonight received an exclusive interview with President Gorbachev in connection with his letter sent to the participants in the forthcoming Alma-Ata meeting. We start our program with an excerpt from this interview:

[Begin Gorbachev recording] Well, to put it in a nutshell, we are talking about the principles on which the commmonwealth should be built, about the institutions of this commonwealth needed to ensure that mechanisms for coordinating politics and joint practical steps are working successfully within it, and finally, about legal continuity.

This process has taken shape. It has embarked on a legal path, let us say, a constitutional one. Supreme Soviets are determining their positions. They express their attitudes and grant powers to their leaders to complete this process. All this is very important. This is the way it should go on, to the very end. I think that once an agreement—agreed upon by all participants—emerges, and once it is ratified by Supreme Soviets, naturally there will be a need for a final meeting of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Its aim is not to adopt, to agree or disagree. This is the will of peoples. If it is expressed this way and approved by the Supreme Soviets of all states, then the task of this session is to adopt a decision on the cessation of the USSR. Therefore, a new page will be opened, a new phase: The Commonwealth of Independent States. [end recording]

[Komarova] By making his statement today, the president stressed his readiness to forgo his own views in the name of preserving republican interaction, at least in the economic sphere. You can learn more about Mikhail Gorbachev's point of view at the completion of our program, when the full interview will be broadcast.

'Sakharov Formula' Cited

LD1912211491 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1933 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Interview with USSR President Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev by unidentified correspondent in Moscow on 19 December—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mikhail Sergeyevich, it has become known that today you sent a letter, a message, to the participants in the meeting in Alma-Ata on establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States. It will be published soon, tomorrow even. What is this message motivated by and what is its basic meaning?

[Gorbachev] Well, really, I have already touched on this subject. Now that the formation of the Commonwealth is approaching its decisive stage, I consider that the meeting to be held in Alma-Ata... [changes thought] I keep thinking that since we have embarked on this road, the road of forming the Commonwealth of Independent States, nevertheless it is necessary to adopt decisions and sign an agreement that will make this new entity viable. To put it in two words, we are talking about principles on which the Commonwealth should be based and about the institutions of this Commonwealth, so that the mechanisms for coordinating policies and joint practical steps work successfully within it.

Finally, we are talking about a legal succession. The epoch of the USSR is coming to an end and the first page in the history of the Commonwealth of Independent States is beginning. This all needs to be thought out, so that it proceeds entirely within the framework of the constitutional process.

Therefore, there are several points to which I wish to draw attention, which I want to bring to the notice of the participants in the Alma-Ata meeting. First, since it is a question of a Commonwealth that includes republics and states of the European part of the country, of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, I propose to reflect this in the name of the Commonwealth itself, so that it stresses equality, the acknowledgment of this equality, and the rights of all the states and peoples making up this Commonwealth, and to name it Eurasian—a Commonwealth of Eurasian Independent States. This will be in the general interest, I think, and this also was urged by the Ashkhabad meeting. This is the Sakharov formula, by the way. He proposed it long ago.

Furthermore, I think that all of us politicians have not yet grasped what is happening, whereby in a country that evolved over hundreds of years as a single whole during a difficult process of evolution, now a new process is now starting, a process of division and dismemberment.

One should not entertain illusions that it will be a simple and easy matter. Such illusions would be very dangerous. So in the agreement itself we have to provide for insurance mechanisms. I would give preeminance to the citizenship issue. Our people live in a single country today and are free to choose where they live, work, study, and much more. At any moment they can travel where they please, visit relatives, go on trips, and visit parts they have not been to before, or go on holiday somewhere. Wherever they might go they are citizens of the USSR, and behind them are laws that protect their rights. Perfect or not as these laws may be, that is the situation. Tomorrow, when there are independent states, they will be citizens of a specific state. What is to happen with Union citizenship?

In order not to put people in a difficult position I am recommending to the comrades that Commonwealth citizenship be preserved for some period of time, and probably a long period of time. People would be citizens of the Commonwealth. If that is not done, I think we will arouse such a reaction from people, we will create so many causes of inconvenience and obstacles in ordinary life, in everyday life, that people simply will reject this entity at the popular level, at their own level. That would be very dangerous. That is why I am drawing attention to this, above all.

I also want to say, without going into details, that I believe that the viability and necessity of the Economic Treaty needs to be confirmed in this agreement. By the way, it already has been signed and is in the process of ratification in all the states, or at least in the majority of states of the Commonwealth. I naturally would draw very considerable and close attention, I would focus the attention of the parties on tackling defense matters, above all as far as strategic weapons are concerned. I believe that full consideration has not yet been given to the fact that our Commonwealth—if it comes into being, and I have no doubt that it will now do so—should become the legal successor of the USSR from the viewpoint of the fact that it must be a subject of international law. I have set out quite detailed arguments on this in my letter.

I do not perceive it as yet. I believe that this is something which should be thought through by the participants of this meeting. The EEC lives and develops. Each of its member states is a subject of international law, and, at the same time, the EEC also is a subject of international law. It is very important because, in that case, all issues will be tackled organically and correctly and with the legal continuity of all the obligations which follow from the treaties signed by the USSR, including the problem of the Security Council, which will be tackled in a natural way.

I draw your attention to the fact that there should be appropriate structures in order to make this Commonwealth work immediately, which is simply a necessity for us. Life demands that everything comes to an accord as soon as possible; this concerns economy, politics, and many other issues, including, naturally, the issues of defense, order, legality, and so on and so forth. That is why certain structures are needed—not the ones which existed in the old center—but they are needed to make this Commonwealth live.

I am concluding my discourse by saying that issues of legal continuity must be resolved. This process has taken shape. It has embarked on a legal path, let us say, a constitutional one. Supreme Soviets are determining their positions. They express their attitudes and grant powers to their leaders to complete this process. All of this is very important, and this is the way it should go to the very end. I beleive that once an agreement agreed upon by all participants emerges, and when it is ratified by the Supreme Soviets, naturally I believe that there will be a need for a concluding session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, because its aim is not to adopt, to agree, or disagree. This is the will of the peoples. If it is expressed this way and approved by the Supreme Soviets of all states, then the task of this session is to adopt a decision on the cessation of the USSR and, therefore, a new page will be opened, a new phase—the Commonwealth of Independent States.

All of this then will be fully constitutional; this is the only way it should be. That is why I [have dwelled] on such key issues which, in my view, I have mentioned in order to enrich this agreement, so that we finally can get a Commonwealth capable of existing.

So, I have considered my role. I believe that I have a moral and political right to appeal to my colleagues to think through the ideas I have sent to them.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Gorbachev Says Commonwealth 'Not Viable'

AU2012104991 Hamburg BILD in German 20 Dec 91 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev by an unidentified BILD reporter; place and date not given: "Money in the Safe, Nuclear Key in the Briefcase"]

[Text] [BILD] Do you have money on you?

[Gorbachev] I have money, but it is in the safe.

[BILD] Where is your identity card?

[Gorbachev] It is in my briefcase.

[BILD] What else do you have in your briefcase?

[Gorbachev] A lot. You do not need to know that. I also have something relatively small in the briefcase. It weighs 1.5 kg. (It is the key for launching nuclear weapons—the editors).

[BILD] Is it true that the post of president and reformer never brings good luck?

[Gorbachev] I have been constantly talking about good luck over the past few days. I will have much to think about in the future. The hot stream of events over the past few days can still be kept within its banks. This stream is burning me more and more.

[BILD] Will you resign?

[Gorbachev] The problem at the moment is to achieve clarity about a new state order. Therefore, I will leave my position. But my convictions will stay with me. I have analyzed many things. As a result, I have sent a letter to the participants of the meeting in Alma Ata. For me, it is very important that these people and the country understand what is going on at the moment.

[BILD] What do you mean?

[Gorbachev] First it was one country, and now this country is split. The people, too, are split.

[BILD] What do you say about the liquidation of the Supreme Soviet?

[Gorbachev] Then the post of the president of the Supreme Soviet will also be liquidated. The president was not elected by the Supreme Soviet but by the Congress of People's Deputies. The people get the impression that this, too, is a putsch, but without tanks. I will never say that this is a coup d'etat.

[BILD] What else is it, if it is not a coup d'etat?

[Gorbachev] An existing system is being replaced with another one. This means that the Soviet Union is being transformed into a Commonwealth of Independent States: However, this should take place only on the legal basis of the constitution.

[BILD] Do you want to have a place in the new political structure?

[Gorbachev] No. I only want this process to produce something that is alive and not a miscarriage.

[BILD] Do you believe in the new Commonwealth of Independent States?

[Gorbachev] No, I do not believe in it. It is not viable.

Gorbachev on Precluding 'Popular Discontent'

OW1912154391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Mikhail Gorbachev has reaffirmed his intention not to stand in the way of republics wishing to form the Commonwealth of Independent States in the territory of the former USSR. If such is the will of republics, let it materialize, he said in the Kremlin on Thursday [19 December] when receiving a delegation of the "Care Germany" charity organization.

The Soviet leader stressed that he is willing to sacrifice his own beliefs for the sake of preserving interaction between republics, at least in the economic area. According to him, the main thing now is to preclude the extreme expressions of inevitable popular discontent with declining living standards in the hardest months of next year: January and February.

Under the circumstances humanitarian actions on the part of the world public are priceless, said M. Gorbachev. The Russian Government's reform package creates most favorable conditions for foreign entrepreneurs who are now in a position to combine efforts to resolve this country's most painful problems with their own commercial benefit.

Gorbachev 'Might Come In Mighty Handy'

PM1912200391 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 20 Dec 91 p 1

["Our Commentary" by Aleksandr Krotkov: "Let Us See What Monday Brings"]

[Text] So it is apparently just a matter of days before M. Gorbachev resigns from the post of USSR president. In a recent interview, Mikhail Sergeyevich said he would make a decision on his future after the Alma-Ata meeting planned for the weekend. In another interview, he added that even then he did not intend to give up political activity.

Many people now believe that the final straw that compelled the president to announce this decision was Boris Yeltsin's sensational statement to the Italian paper LA REPUBBLICA: Apparently, no place is envisaged for Gorbachev in the new Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]. We contacted the USSR president's press attache, Andrey Grachev, and asked him to comment on the situation.

"I have to disappoint you," Grachev said. "No way was Mikhail Sergeyevich reacting to Boris Nikolayevich's interview. Indeed, they were meeting face to face and Yeltsin was able to tell Gorbachev directly about his intentions. As for whether these intentions are constitutional and civilized, it would be more correct to comment on them not in relation to the USSR president in person, but in relation to all the Union structures, to the Union itself. The formation of the CIS has lacked legality from the outset..."

Well, I would add that similar views currently are held by many of Gorbachev's political opponents, such as Nikolay Travkin, Gavriil Popov, and Mikhail Astafyev. It is very easy, claiming pressure of time and the excessive sluggishness of constitutional procedures, to start acting "according to the laws of revolutionary times," by actuating the machinery of despotism. It is very difficult to stop it. History teaches that the first victims of the revolutionary juggernaut are its creators. Who knows? Perhaps the former Russian autonomous entities will announce the creation of their own commonwealth tomorrow, with its capital in Kyzyl or Elista, an independent commonwealth in which there will be no place for the Russian president this time. Indeed, it would be difficult to object—there is already a precedent—but that is a matter for the future. What many people want to know at the moment is what capacity Mikhail Gorbachev sees himself in after his resignation, and whether he intends to join (or head) a new democratic opposition to the Russian Government.

"Opposition is too strong a word. Opposition to what?..." was Andrey Grachev's comment on this forecast. "Mikhail Gorbachev is at pains to stress that he will accept as a fait accompli a decision that is presented in the proper constitutional way, although I repeat, he does not share the idea behind the Commonwealth."

Indeed, it is hard to imagine Gorbachev as an active opposition figure. If he had had any intentions whatsoever on that score, the president certainly would have been at last weekend's founding congress of the Democratic Reform Movement, the leaders of which include many of his close friends.

Perhaps he is counting on the leaders of the Central Asian republics, fearful of Yeltsin's gruffness, attempting to land for the former Union president the role of a kind of arbiter in their relations with the Slav republics. Indeed, despite all the popularity ratings, Gorbachev's authority among the states' leaders remains extremely high, while his ability to find compromises in seemingly hopeless situations and to act within the framework of the law would come in mighty handy in the new Commonwealth!

But let us stop peering into the coffee grounds. The political situation in the country is so fluid and unpredictable that the most incredible and fantastic forecasts could come true.

Let us wait for the end of the Alma-Ata meeting. Much will be clear by the beginning of next week, I hope.

Aides Interviewed on Foreign Ministry Abolition

PM2012094491 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 20 Dec 91 p 3

[Telephone interviews with Shevardnadze aides P. Tarasenko and T. Mamaladze by V. Shutkevich 19 December: "The Minister Is Asked To Pack His Bags"]

[Text] The TASS parliamentary correspondent reports that the USSR Ministry of External Relations was abolished yesterday by decree of B. Yeltsin. Day-to-day management of the building, property, and resources of the former Union department has been handed over to the Russian Foreign Ministry. In the evening we telephoned E. Shevardnadze's aides P. Tarasenko and T. Mamaladze.

P. Tarasenko:

"This news was not too much of a surprise for us. When we came back here with E. Shevardnadze, we knew that something like this could happen, and we were giving ourselves not more than a year. After the Minsk agreement it became clear that this decision would be made before the Alma-Ata meeting, so as to present the other republics with a fait accompli. If they had been consulted beforehand, they would not have supported it. The Union Ministry of External Relations was for some republics basically their sole means of access to the world. Today they simply do not have the potential to engage in effective foreign policy activity themselves—they do not have their own diplomats, cipher communications, and so forth. Moreover, it is not only a question of the ministry, but of property abroad too—embassy buildings, land, and so forth—which was acquired by all the republics. Now, in my view, they have been insulted. The consequences could be disastrous."

T. Mamaladze:

"This decision is also insulting to the USSR president, who recently appointed E. Shevardnadze minister of external relations, and to the minister himself. It seems improbable, but the TASS report on the ministry's abolition began to be disseminated even before the minister had read the decree. I think it was all done inhumanely. And if the authorities are acting inhumanely, nothing good will come of it."

[Shutkevich] "What about tomorrow? Will the ministry staffers find their offices sealed when they arrive for work?"

[Mamaladze] "I cannot rule it out, although it is not yet completely clear. Of course, we could barricade ourselves in the building, but.... We were intending to build a rule-of-law state. And in spite of everything we ourselves are not going to act unlawfully."

New Communist Parties Tallied, Classified

LD1912133191 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 14 Dec 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Almost every Saturday our editorial office receives reports about some new Communist Party being set up. The number of these around today indicates that it is time to sort them into some kind of classification. Our correspondent, who has been to the inaugural congress of yet another party of communists, has done this.

[Correspondent I. Shestakov] The Communist Party of the Soviet Union always stood out by its monolithic nature, although the master of the communist izba [peasant cottage] always kept his order, carefully sweeping out the rubbish in the form of free-thinkers and schismatics. Over half a century has elapsed since the last general purge, when Bukharin and Zinovyev were executed.

Today there is no CPSU, but the communist religion, like feudalism before it, has disintegrated into a number of religions or parties. Here is a list drawn up according to how these parties rate property relations; the question of ownership is today more topical than that of power. The left wing, according to communist terminology, is occupied by the Bolsheviks Party, led by Nina Andreyeva. This party is distingushed by its intolerance of perestroyka and like true Old Believers [Russian Orthodox sect, maintaining faith against schismatics] still light icon lamps to Stalin.

To the right is the Russian Communist Workers Party led by Viktor Tyulkin. They reject the market and private ownership, and think the 1965 reform is to blame for all ills. Further to the right is the League of Communists, led by Aleksey Alekseyevich Prigarin. They accept

the market, but are opposed to private operators. All three of these parties are oriented to a public form of ownership.

The parties further to the left—or, as the communists see it, further to the right—are oriented towards enterprise, namely the Socialist Party of Working People of Russia with Roy Medvedev. Here too is Gonchar's Party of Labor, if it can get on its feet, and Rutskoy's People's Party of Free Russia, which relies upon the middle class and the Russian bourgeoisie.

Furthest to the right is the Democratic Movement of Russia. The Party of Communists held its inaugural conference in the little Moscow oblast town of Zheleznodorozhnyy today. This party will evidently occupy a centrist position, accepting both the market and partial private ownership.

This list of parties is not like Mendeleyev's list, of course—it will keep changing. The parties will create alliances and blocs, recruiting communists who have fallen out of favor. And if in time they all start calling themselves the same thing, then the question of power will once again become the main one.

Zhirinovskiy Demands Immediate Elections

LD1812181791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1716 GMT 18 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Palariya]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 18 December (TASS)—Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], has demanded immediate presidential elections. Speaking today at a news conference for Soviet and foreign journalists, the LDP leader called for support for his candidature, and at the same time gave the press an original essay on the theme "If I Were President." First, he noted, with my first decree I would subordinate the Armed Forces to myself and put them on a state of military alert. Second, "I would give every officer military rank up to colonel, and would also give them the right to obtain a car made in the fatherland."[passage omitted]

He also set out the LDP's concept on the re-birth of Russia's statehood. In the opinion of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, it should be a Russian federation of provinces [gubernii] and republics.

The LDP leader's report about the sensational rumors concerning a duel with the mayor of St. Petersburg seemed rather poignant under the cover of the press conference. The party leader, who intends in the near future to withdraw the word "democratic" from its title, reaffirmed his readiness to fight Sobchak by any means. "I get 98 out of 100 every time," he said.

Country Infected With 'Political AIDS'

LD1812180591 Moscow TASS in English 1558 GMT 18 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Genine Babakian]

[Text] Moscow December 18 TASS—The former Soviet Union is infected with a form of "political AIDS" from which the whole country may perish, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy told a press conference today, attacking the recent Commonwealth agreement signed 10 days ago by the leaders of Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine, and U.S. interference in Russia.

The controversial leader of the Liberal Democratic Party cited only three possible exits to country's current condition: another coup, civil war, or electing him president.

"The goals of the Commonwealth of Independent States will mean the death of Russia," Zhirinovskiy said, adding that many other national groups would be better off at the expense of the Russian people. "Russia will simply perish. Not right away, but gradually, over the next 20 to 30 years, as new groups decide to 'succeed,'" Zhirinovskiy said. "The only remaining Russians will be street cleaners, sanitation workers, truck drivers—everyone else will have broken away."

Instead of the new Commonwealth, Zhirinovskiy envisions a "Russian federation of provinces and republics" of which he plans to be president. Claiming more than 60 million supporters, Zhirinovskiy predicted that he would be elected president by next April.

Zhirinovskiy also claimed that the CIA is in the process of waging a weaponless "third world war" against Russia. Instead of sending the technology Russia needs to overcome its current economic crisis, the U.S. is trying to poison the Russian people with "vodka, Pepsi, and propaganda."

Presidential Contender Zavidiya Explains Goals

AU1812123291 Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No 46 (54), 20-26 Nov 91 p 2

[Report on interview with Andrey Zavidiya, entrepreneur, member of the Liberal Democratic Party, by Viktor Logunov and Konstantin Medvedkin; place and date not given: "'Yeltsin and Gorbachev Will Be My Aides....' Declared the Entrepreneur Andrey Zavidiya and Added: 'After I Complete My Presidential Term I Will Go to Hawaii!'"]

[Text] The name of Andrey Zavidiya became known in summer when he was nominated to the post of Russian vice president, nominated by Zhirinovskiy. Since then, their names seemed to be inseparable. However, at first, rumors spread about the quarrel between the ex-candidates, and then it became known that both of them were going to come forward as candidates at the USSR presidential elections next summer.

[ROSSIYA] It is known that you financed Zhirinovskiy's election campaign....

[Zavidiya] Yes, I spent 35,000 rubles [R] on the publication of the program of the Liberal Democratic Party. I personally, as a candidate for vice presidency, toured the country and spoke to the people. All of this, certainly, at my own expense. In short, I spent a net sum of about R50,000 on this whole business. However, for me it was the only opportunity to publicize myself. At first, I was going to come forward as a candidate from the CPSU and spoke to a number of Politburo members. However, nothing came of it. They nominated Ryzhkov. They said: "Nobody knows you, we will not have enough time to do anything...."

[ROSSIYA] Consequently, you want to become president of the USSR. How are you going to do this?

[Zavidiya] It's not me who wants it, but the people. Following my last election campaign, those enterprises that I visited as a candidate for Russian vice presidency became my supporters. I began to receive letters, people came and asked me to come forward as a candidate for the presidency. I only supported this. Now, some of the enterprises of the "Galant" concern, of which I am president, and as many other enterprises that are not members of this concern are investing R100 million in my future presidential campaign. One hundred million!—All this is on a legal basis.... They have the right to do this. For example, people from some enterprise come to me and say: "We are not feeling quite well at the moment." We give them, for example, R100,000: R50,000 for themselves and R50,000 for direct or indirect propaganda. Taking this into account, one can say that there will be fruit.... **Andrey Zavidiya's concern unites about 700 enterprises with spheres of activity ranging very widely: from legal and mediatory services to direct production.**

[ROSSIYA] Let us imagine for a second that you have become president. Will you give up business?

[Zavidiya] What a question! Certainly! I will stop all commercial activity. Think for yourselves, if this doesn't happen, I could pocket hundreds of millions of dollars within the first 10 days of the presidency. Nobody can have any doubts about it. Because the whole business world of the planet can come to me personally in anticipation that I will permit squandering, pilfering, and so on. Therefore, I will suspend my commercial activity until the day I vacate my presidential post. After the presidency I will rest for one year.... Incidentally. I want to give a promise. Over these five years, there will be no "Foroses" [Foros is a place in the Crimea where Gorbachev had a dacha] and no rest. The confidence of the people must be justified. No vacations. Well, if it is something beyond human possibilities, one may rest somewhere for one day.... Then a vacation for a year. Business can wait. I want to go to the Aleutian islands or, even more attractive, to Hawaii....

[ROSSIYA] What would be your first decree in the post of president?

[Zavidiya] The introduction of an emergency economic situation. Incidentally, there were many positive aspects in what the members of the State Committee for the State of Emergency did. They could prevent war, disintegration, and bloodshed (?!—Authors).

Andrey Fedorovich himself believes that his election campaign will undoubtedly lead to his victory in the elections. He does not consider Gorbachev or Yeltsin as competitors.

[Zavidiya] The imminent famine and cold will crush all my competitors, including Gorbachev and Yeltsin. There will remain nothing for them but run away in haste.

[ROSSIYA] How about Zhirinovskiy?

[Zavidiya] Yes, he is a competitor. We will compete with him. However, I have at my disposal some information to the effect that, for a number of reasons, Vladimir Volfovich will not be registered as a presidential candidate. I will not say what these reasons are.... In general, he is a serious competitor. I respect him and I picked up courage from him.

[ROSSIYA] That is to say, you think you have a chance of winning?

[Zavidiya] Certainly. Once again about Gorbachev and Yeltsin. When I am elected president, I will not let either Gorbachev or Yeltsin go. I will make them my aides and will make them fulfill the positive deeds that they have started. It is clear that they are unable to rouse the whole Union or the whole of Russia—one can see this by the queues, but I would entrust them with something small. Let them prove to the people that they can lead some business to the end.

[ROSSIYA] Therefore, there may prove useful in some way?

[Zavidiya] Certainly, they have the potential....

[ROSSIYA] Do you already have the candidate for vice president?

[Zavidiya] Not yet. I will find somebody toward the end. We will find a common language with somebody who proves to be more popular.

It looks like Andrey Fedorovich is quite seriously going to occupy the presidential chair. Feeling the warm breath of millions [of rubles or dollars] on his neck, he regards the occupancy of this post as a good deal. However, after all, there are things in the world that cannot be bought, not only with money but also with much money. One item on this not very long list is the confidence of the people.

Daily Resists Pressure; Dispute Continues

'Used To Working by Candlelight'

PM1912144791

[Editorial Report] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 December 1991 carries on page 2 under the "Our Editorial Office Today" rubric a feature on the dispute over ownership of the PRAVDA editorial offices, comprising a message from PRAVDA employees; a report by St. Petersburg correspondent Nikolay Volynskiy on support for PRAVDA on the part of various local dignitaries; his letter to V. Leontyev, general director of the "Pressa" Publishing House, stating that he will continue his hunger strike until PRAVDA's lights and telephones are restored and negotiations begin; and a Vasiliy Popov report thanking readers who have sent donations of money.

The PRAVDA employees' message, entitled "Chronicle of Blockade, Day Four," states:

"The discriminatory measures against our newspaper have still not been lifted. We are already getting used to working by candlelight—it is dark in Moscow at 1600—and we manage with one telephone among several people. The chief difficulty is that the writers whose materials appear in the current issue cannot get into the editorial office. Our commercial activity is on the verge of freezing up: Links with the world have been cut off.

"Incidentally, about money. The publishing house has passed to the editorial office a draft contract for next year. They propose that we increase the cost of a PRAVDA subscription from 29 rubles [R] to R600 as of 1 February 1992. An issue of the newspaper is to cost at least R2 from a kiosk. Not bad, eh?

"And yet the newspaper collective will not permit such mockery of its readers. Yes, of course, the retail and subscription prices will be increased. But we will endeavor to use commercial activity to subsidize all who wish to subscribe to PRAVDA or to buy it from a kiosk. We think, roughly, that an annual subscription to our newspaper will not be more than R200, and PRAVDA might cost 80 kopeks from retail outlets. Of course, even that is a lot. But such is the market and such are the conditions in which they are placing us by depriving us of the possibility of engaging in commercial activity in readers' interests.

"A huge thank-you to you, PRAVDA subscribers and readers, from whom we have already received hundreds and hundreds of telegrams pledging support. We feel that you need us, and this alone makes us struggle for PRAVDA, for glasnost and democracy.

"Thank you!"

Lights Still Out

PM1912143991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Dec 91 p 3

[Report by PRAVDA employees under the "Attack on Glasnost Continues" rubric: "Still Blockaded"]

[Text] Yesterday's issue of PRAVDA reported that the conflict over our newspaper had been discussed in the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Committee for the Mass Media. In particular, people's deputies pointed out: The problems that have arisen between the collective of the newspaper's editorial office and the Pressa Publishing House must be resolved not by strong-arm methods—by cutting off lighting and telephone communications—but on the basis of the law. PRAVDA's representatives were assured that the telephones and lighting on the ninth and 10th stories would be turned back on as early as Wednesday and that the posts at the entrance to the Legal, Economic, and Political Information Center would be removed.

It is to be regretted that the Pressa Publishing House leadership simply ignored the competent opinion of members of the Russian Supreme Soviet committee. The lights in many offices and some telephones on the ninth story are still out. Incidentally, not a single telephone is working in the illustrations department, where constant contact with the "outside world" is required. No one has even thought of removing the posts at the entrances to the 10th story and, moreover, the stairs leading there have been roped off. The permits bureau refuses to serve our writers and visitors—the order "As you were" has not yet come through...

Moscow World Service Censorship Denounced

LD1912163591 Hilversum Radio Netherlands in English 1150 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Recorded telephone message from Vasiliy Strelnikov, popular Radio Moscow World Service announcer and pop music program host, in Moscow addressed to Jonathan Marks, host of the weekly magazine program "Media Network" which contains recorded messages phoned in by radio enthusiasts and correspondents from around the world]

[Text] Hello, Jonathan. This is Vasiliy Strelnikov in Moscow. First of all, a very merry Christmas to all in Hilversum and around the world.

I'd like to apologize to all my fans—yes, all two of them—for not being on the air during the past couple of weeks with Vasiliy's Weekend [weekend pop program] The reason? Censorship. Censorship is very much back at Radio Moscow. Something is definitely cooking at the World Service. Since I returned from the United States all my shows were censored, with segments cut out. A few weeks ago the whole show was simply taken off the air without warning. The 14 December edition was also taken off the air.

It appears that the censor didn't like my reference to the fact that Moscow is no longer the nation's capital, the USSR is no longer the USSR, and Radio Moscow might have to change its name for political and financial reasons or close down altogether. That, by the way, will become known within the next few weeks. My speculation about the possibility that Radio Moscow employees might find themselves out on the street did not please the scissor-man.

The people at Radio Moscow are worried about losing their jobs at a time when life here is very hard, to say the least, and yet somehow life still goes on and the Russians can joke about it. That was the message in the show's intro. I get the impression that glasnost is on its way out.

And on that note it's: Party hearty, comrades! And enjoy those holidays! 'Bye, Jonathan.

Athletes To Be Members of Single Olympic Team

LD2012001291 Moscow TASS in English 1959 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow December 19 TASS—"I again reaffirm that Soviet sportsmen will appear as a single team at the Albertville Olympic Games. This was confirmed today at a meeting of the executive committee of the Soviet Olympic Committee," Vitaliy Smirnov, chairman of the Soviet Olympic Committee and vice president of the International Olympic Committee, told a news conference here today.

"Only recently we maintained that the sportsmen of the country would appear under the flag of the USSR whereas now one cannot say this with full conviction," Smirnov said.

"The question remains undecided. This is, of course, an urgent issue and we shall decide on it soon at a meeting of the Olympic Committes of five republics whose sportsmen will participate in the 1992 Albertville Olympics.

"There are several versions: The team will appear under the flag of the old USSR, perform under a new Olympic emblem or under the IOC flag with the appropriate playing of the Olympic anthem.

"As far as funds are concerned, there is really a lack of them and first of all foreign-exchange currency. The executive committee has resolved to hold talks on the subject with the Adidas firm, one of our main sponsors," Smirnov emphasised.

"In addition, the executive committee decided to recommend, at the request of the Olympic Committes of Armenia, Georgia and Moldova, that they be granted IOC membership. These sides assured that they intend to participate in the Olympic Games in a joint team (together with others).

"We shall need to coordinate our work in future as well," Smirnov said. "There is a host of matters and problems that we can resolve only together. These include the training of high-class sportsmen, the possibility of their participation in this or that team at the country's open championships, the training of specialists, coaches, and sportsmen, the utilisation of sports facilities, of which there are many and of very high class in various republics and cities of the old Soviet Union".

Then Smirnov and the leaders of sports organisations and associations attending the news conference answered journalists' questions.

TASS Carries Press Review for 20 Dec

LD2012065591 Moscow TASS in English 0623 GMT 20 Dec 91

["Soviet Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow December 20 TASS—Today's newspapers publish the text of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's message to the participants in the upcoming summit meeting in Kazakhstan capital Alma-Ata on December 21.

Gorbachev stressed the need to "take such measures and sign such an agreement which would render the Commonwealth viable".

Those should include principles on which the new Commonwealth should be built, institutions of this Commonwealth so that mechanisms for the coordination of policies and joint practical steps would function successfully, and a question of legal succession.

Gorbachev said the era of the Soviet Union is drawing to an end, and the first page of a Commonwealth of Independent States is opening up. "it is essential to think everything out so that this be carried through within the framework of a constitutional process," Gorbachev said.

Newspapers also carry reports about Russian Republic President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Italy.

Yeltsin and Italian leaders signed a package of documents and agreements to boost direct ties and mutually beneficial cooperation between Russia and Italy.

"Russia will inherit the major part of Soviet-Italian relations, mutual obligations and large economic projects," the Soviet trade union newspaper TRUD said.

The newspaper urged both states to reiterate their intention to develop friendship and bilateral cooperation despite the end of the Soviet Union.

The newspaper PRAVDA publishes excerpts from an article by a WASHINGTON POST correspondent in Moscow, who analyses the situation in the Soviet Union after six years of perestroyka.

The author said Gorbachev's merit is that he put an end to the "cold war" and helped Soviet people regain confidence.

At the same time, the author stressed Gorbachev's fatal mistake was his loyalty to the Party, which completely discredited itself in the Soviet Union.

Newspapers also publish Yeltsin's decree on the abolition of the Soviet Ministry of External Relations.

The newspapers SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA publish an interview with Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of the Chechen Republic, and Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of Kazakhstan.

Both presidents comment on the recent meeting of the presidents of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus in Brest to form a Commonwealth of Independent States.

Dudayev and Nazarbayev criticised the "tripartite agreements" as an attempt to divide the country by a "Slavic-Moslem principle".

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev expressed a different opinion. In an interview with Soviet military daily KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, he welcomed the creation of the Commonwealth as the beginning of the path "towards a formula taking us away from the Yugoslav variant".

The newspapers RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carry the article "Foros: 73 Hours Under Arrest" with excerpts from the diary of Raisa Gorbachev, in which she tells about their "imprisonment" in their Black Sea villa in the Crimea during the August coup.

Commonwealth Affairs

Reaction on Upcoming Alma-Ata Summit Noted

May Set Up New Councils

LD1912163191 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Commentary by Vitaliy Gurov]

[Text] President Gorbachev has sent a message to the meeting of the leaders of the former Soviet republics that will open in the Kazakh capital Alma-Ata on Saturday [21 December]. All the former Soviet republics except the Baltics, Georgia, and Azerbaijan are expected to attend. The meeting will focus on creating a Commonwealth of Independent States. Our commentary is by Vitaliy Gurov.

If all goes well the summit may also set up a council of heads of state, an intergovernment body, and a defense council. The new military alliance may be called the Alma-Ata treaty after the city of its birth. Beyond doubt, the assembly of presidents will have plenty of problems to solve.

For the first time, President Gorbachev has made it clear he intends to resign. In an interview with the ABC and the head of this country's broadcasting company, that incorporates Radio Moscow, Yegor Yakovlev, the president said he would continue his political activities even after his resignation. But he stressed his stepping down would depend on a smooth transition from the Union to a Commonwealth. He hoped the new era would finally bring the people a good life.

The upper chamber of the Soviet parliament, the Council of the Republics, has approved the agreement to form a Commonwealth of Independent States. But the Council of the Heads of Government of the Economic Community has not taken place as scheduled, owing mainly to the unclear political situation. For the same reason, there has been no motion on an important agreement for economic cooperation among the former republics, though further delays may only aggravate the economic situation as integration links continue to break.

The main question at the moment is: Will an agreement of a Commonwealth be signed in Alma-Ata? The Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, believes it will. He has said as much to newsmen. But the statements from other leaders are less encouraging. The Ukrainian president, Leonid Kravchuk, has flatly opposed any changes in the text of the initial agreement, which may prompt the leaders of the eastern republics to refuse to sign it since they drew up amendments at their meeting in Ashkhabad. President Levon Ter-Petrosyan of Armenia supports the idea of a Commonwealth in general terms, but he demands as a preliminary condition for joining it that the status of autonomous regions be clarified and the regulations on the presence of the united Armed Forces on the territories of the sovereign republics be spelled out. President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan also supports the idea of a Commonwealth, but he feels that some clauses in the initial agreement reflect the former approach dividing members into senior and junior. He also believes Kazakhstan should give up the maintenance of nuclear arms on its territory, even though they are under a single command. He is opposed to letting the Russian Republic occupy the seat in the Security Council. The seat, he says, should belong to the new Commonwealth.

Media Interest Cited

PM1912193191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Dec 91 Union Edition p 1

[Report by correspondent V. Ardayev: "Minsk-Ashkhabad-Alma-Ata: The Path to the Commonwealth"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—A series of aircraft—carrying working groups and journalists—has landed at Alma-Ata Airport, which has seen practically no outgoing flights (no fuel) for some days. The aircraft bringing 30 Russian presidential apparatus staffers was followed closely by a charter flight from Atlanta, with 25 people from the CNN television company on board.... The importance the country and the world attach to the meeting planned for 21 December can be judged by the large media presence. According to preliminary figures, it will be

covered by around 300 Soviet and approximately 120 foreign correspondents from all over the world—the United States, Britain, Germany, Japan, and even Monte Carlo. Well, the event certainly merits this kind of interest.

The first question that will certainly concern everyone is which leaders will be coming to Alma-Ata. At the moment the talk is of the participation not of eight states but of nine or even 10—it is expected that the Minsk "three" and Ashkhabad "five" will be joined by Armenia and, maybe, Moldova. Moreover, the participation of the nuclear republics—Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus—will apparently depend on the widening of the agenda. Late on 17 December, obviously immediately after his conversation with [U.S. Secretary of State] J. Baker, [President of Kazakhstan] N. Nazarbayev sent a proposal to the leaders of the three states that they conclude an agreement in Alma-Ata on the question of nuclear defense.

The meeting will be held in Alma-Ata's Friendship House—in the very hall and at the very roundtable where the 12 republics' delegations met to decide the fate of the Economic Treaty. The press center is in the same building. The journalists who will fill it will have their work cut out to obtain a constant supply of information on the course of the meeting—only one brief news conference is planned for the end of the meeting, and the sessions will be held behind closed doors.

It is assumed that the meeting participants will arrive in the capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan 20 December. On 21 December they will sit down at the negotiating table, with negotiations planned to last two days. It remains for me to wish them success. And wisdom....

Further on Preparations

LD2012091491 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Report by Adil Ibrayev from Alma-Ata]

[Text] A meeting of the leaders of 11 sovereign independent republics will take place in Alma-Ata tomorrow, 21 December. Boris Yeltsin will lead the Russian delegation. Other delegations will be headed by: Armenia—Ter Petrosyan; Azerbaijan—Mutalibov; Kazakhstan—Nazarbayev; Ukraine—Kravchuk; Belarus—Shushkevich; Uzbekistan—Karimov; Turkmenia—Niyazov; Tajikistan—Nabiyev; Moldova—Snegur; and Kyrgyzstan—Akayev. USSR Defense Minister Shaposhnikov and Interior Minister Barannikov will also arrive for the meeting.

Adil Ibrayev, the Kazakhstan president's press center spokesman reports:

[Ibrayev] It is expected that the coordination structures of the future Commonwealth, nuclear weapons, the Aviation and Space Committee, UN membership, and the UN Security Council will be discussed. Each republic will probably bring their own documents. [Word indistinct] work has already begun in the working commissions [word indistinct] of lawyers, the military, and economists.

A news conference will be held after the meeting. Journalists accredited to the meeting have already arrived, with about 100 foreign journalists, and about 100 journalists representing all the republics participating in the Alma-Ata meeting. A special CNN group is flying in from Atlanta on a charter flight, while 40 Japanese journalists have already arrived.

Shakhray on Talks

OW2012122691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1147 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Vice-President Sergey Shakhray said that at the forthcoming talks in Alma-Ata, the leaders of the sovereign republics may conclude a number of agreements supplementing the Minsk Treaty on the Commonwealth of Independent States. He told IF [INTERFAX] correspondents in Kazakhstan that on December 21 the Commonwealth's organizational, working and possibly representative bodies would be set up.

Experts of the republic delegations arriving in Alma-Ata express different views on the possibility of the Commonwealth being joined by independent states. Some of them are worried by the fact that the treaty has already been ratified by three states (Russia, the Ukraine and Belarus), which makes the rest of the republics dependent on their position.

Such fears are ungrounded, Sergey Shakhray told IF. The states which intend to sign the treaty, but which disagree with some of its provisions may present their critical remarks and make official proposals. "When individual agreements specifying the general treaty are being drafted afterwards, these proposals will be taken into account," he added. Mr. Shakhray noted that such legal nuances are normal in the world practice and should not scare away those who would like to join the Commonwealth on a par with other members.

Not State; Bloc 'Not Aimed Against Anyone'

OW1812164591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1430 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Commonwealth of Independent States is not a state, but a bloc of Euro-Asian countries, said Pavel Voschanov, press secretary of the Russian president. This bloc is not aimed against anyone, but is expected to stabilize the situation in the former USSR, he told IF's [INTERFAX] reporter.

According to P. Voschanov, the Commonwealth can be compared with what used to be called the British Commonwealth of Nations. "This means that it will require no diplomatic recognition," he pointed out.

Scientific

'Intercosmos 25' Earth Satellite Launched

LD1812144691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1345 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow, 18 Dec (TASS)—Flight Control Center reported today:

"In accordance with the international Intercosmos program of cooperation in the area of basic space research, the Tsiklon rocket launcher launched the "Intercosmos 25" artificial earth satellite in the Soviet Union from Plesetsk cosmodrome in the Soviet Union on 18 December.

The satellite's launch was prepared within the framework of the international Apeks scientific program, whose basic aim is comprehensive research into the effects of artificial influence by modulated streams of electrons and beams of plasma on the Earth's ionosphere and magnetosphere.

The "Intercosmos 25" artificial earth satellite is carrying a Czechoslovak "Magion 3" satellite. The satellites' scientific and telemetric apparatus was developed and prepared by scientists and specialists from the Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian Republic, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union, the Czechoslovak Federal Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The basic scientific program will get underway after the Czechoslovak satellite has separated from "Intercosmos 25."

The satellite has been placed in orbit with the following parameters:

—maximum distance from the Earth's surface (apogee)—3083 km;

—minimum distance from the Earth's surface (perigee)—440 km;

—initial period of revolution—121.7 minutes;

—inclination of orbit—82.5 degrees.

Foreign scientists and development specialists in scientific and telemetric apparatus were involved along with Soviet specialists in tests and in preparing for the launch of the satellites at the cosmodrome.

The on-board systems on the "Intercosmos-25" satellite are working normally.

Ground stations at a control center in the Soviet Union and a telemetric information receiving station in the CSFR are receiving incoming information from the satellite.

Radugha Communications Satellite Launched

LD2012120591 Moscow TASS in English 1157 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow December 20 TASS—The Soviet satellite-launching rocket Proton sent the communication satellite Radugha into orbit today, carrying equipment for TV, telephone and telegraph transmission.

Radugha was launched in an orbit with the following parameters:

—Distance from the Earth is 36,500 kilometers,

—Period of revolution is 24 hours, 32 minutes,

—Orbital inclination is 1.5 degrees.

The onboard equipment is functioning normally.

The command-measuring complex controls the satellite's performance. The satellite's communication equipment will be run in accordance with the initial schedule.

Military

General Cites Need for Civilian Military Control

LD1912143191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1847 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow, 10 Dec (TASS)—The agreement on the Commonwealth of Independent States signed in Belovezhskaya Forest has sharply altered life in the country and has also impinged on the USSR's Armed Forces.

In IZVESTIYA today, Major General Viktor Samoylov, head of a department of the service of the RSFSR state counsellor for defense, discusses the future of the Armed Forces. "The Army is called upon to defend the sovereignty of the state, and since the union is destroyed as a state, the republics too, the Ukraine in particular, have the right to raise the question of creating their own armed forces to back up their sovereignty," he considers, and he asserts that this is now a problem requiring immediate resolution, regardless of which forms the defense will take on the territory of the former union.

The question concerns the creation of a system of civilian control over the Armed Forces. Throughout the article the author develops the idea that "an urgent need has arisen, even before the Army is reformed, to relieve it of the burden of worry about its survival, to make it controllable and penetrable by civil authorities and social institutions, and to create mechanisms for legal and social protection of servicemen and of those transferred to the reserve".

He warns: "To delay the adoption of urgent measures would be to provoke servicemen into acting as an independent political force."

General Denies Army 'Plot' Against Democracy

PM2012110991 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Dec 91 p 1

[Letter to People's Deputy Belozertsev from Major General of the General Staff L. Kozhendayev: "Open Letter from a General of the General Staff to a People's Deputy: How Are We To Understand You?"]

[Text] "Mr. Belozertsev,

"My congratulations. Your recent interview on Radio Rossii about the presence of 'clandestine party structures' in the Armed Forces, a fresh plot being prepared by the military against democracy, and a plot by generals of the General Staff against the defense minister was brilliant. Taken in conjunction with a similar item published by Mr. V. Neznamov, in issue No. 49 of the newspaper ROSSIYA, it gives grounds for drawing the conclusion that the next round of attacks on the Army is under way.

"There is no denying that many eyes are focused on the Army today, including those of working people. I will cite examples from letters that I have received myself. 'I implore you to save our united country and restore order,' P.N. Kulikova writes. 'Dear defenders of ours, help working people and stop the country's collapse. Ordinary people support you,' A.V. Radchenko entreats...

"You can understand them. Whom else can they turn to with their troubles? The people remember the lessons of history—the unity shown by Minin and Pozharskiy [leaders of Russian patriotic forces who beat back invaders in 1612] and the greatness of the Pereyaslav Council [which voted in 1654 to reunite Ukraine and Russia] and Poltava [battle where Russians defeated Swedes in 1709], where the strength of the people and military strength was paid to the times of trouble and discord.

"All that is so, but nevertheless, as has always been the case, it is not the Army's job to instill order. The Army has enough bitter experience of occasions when it alone has been held responsibile for what happens, but something else frightens the powers that be—the fact that the Army will not act against the people, whose patience will soon be exhausted. Mr. Belozertsev, you will no longer be able to convince the people that the Armed Forces are some kind of monster aimed against them. The fervor of August has already left people. They know that the Army left the military camps and returned to them under orders. And the self-restraint shown by servicemen, even when Molotov cocktails were thrown at their armored personnel carriers, prevented bloodshed. The Army does not need blood. Ultimately the Army during those anxious days acted neither for you nor for your opponents. It remained with the people.

"Calm yourself, Mr. Belozertsev. There can be no plot against democracy in our country if only because we do not have democracy. While there were and there are merely slogans about it, there was and there is exploitation by politicians of people's belief in a better future. This must, of course, be fought against, but not by force of arms—the word is mightier than the sword here. Nor can there be a plot by the generals in the General Staff against the defense minister, with which you seek to frighten those who have lost their faith. It does no great credit to cast suspicion upon a community of people when their sole concern is the idea of maintaining the country's defense capability. As far as the reallocation of posts is concerned, and the hints that some people would like to see themselves in the minister's job, not a single sensible general would wish to aspire to such a post today. This also applies to posts in the General Staff. Only a sense of military duty and the sanctity of orders makes people occupy them in present-day conditions.

"If anything supports the Army today, it is the deep conviction that the Army bears supreme responsibility. It is perhaps the sole institution that still makes the state a state and unites us. An altogether new quality of officers is being fashioned on this. Or, more precisely, an old quality is being revived. The Officers' Assembly is being formed, not in the sense that the servants of the politicians insinuated prior to the change of labels and flags, but an Officers' Assembly based on truly democratic principles and the best traditions of the Russian Army. It is a spiritual organization that unites people and fosters in them a spirit of decency, mutual assistance, and devotion to duty and honor. It is gathering momentum. Is this what you mean by 'clandestine party structure?'

"So, gentlemen, do not cloud the issue, and do not try to hoodwink people.

"I have the honor to be,

"Kozhendayev, major general of the General Staff."

Lobov's Dismissal From Armed Forces Expected

LD1912190691 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1651 GMT 19 Dec 91

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Former chief of the General Staff, General Vladimir Lobov, still reports for service in the General Staff. According to the information from confidential sources, Vladimir Lobov still occupies one of the offices in the General Staff. Lobov is expected to be dismissed from the Armed Forces soon.

Future of Soviet Armed Forces Viewed

LD1912234891 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1910 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] With the disintegration of the old Union, and the emergence of the independent Commonwealth, the future of the Soviet Armed Forces has become one of the most worrying issues. Radio Moscow's analyst of defense matters, Colonel Vadim Solovyev, explains why.

[Solovyev, in Russian fading to English translation] Until more recently, it seemed the republican leaders had reached agreement that signatories to the new Commonwealth treaty would have a single army. But it now appears these would have to be split, after Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk issued decrees on creating local armed forces and declared himself the commander in chief. The Soviet military raised objections, saying this would increase defense spending because of a need for a dozen of parallel but costly operational and training systems. Our analyst says the move is premature, given that the republics face a number of social and economic issues to grapple with first. But in the long run, the final say rests with politicians and their common sense.

However, the question of armed forces will be cleared up on Saturday, since a defense union agreement is expected to be among the initial papers that the Commonwealth members intend to sign when they meet in Alma-Ata. In the meantime, the republican leaders made it clear that the Soviet nuclear arsenal would remain under uniform control, and the Defense Minister, Marshall Shaposhnikov, reasserted the decision in no uncertain terms:

The minister said the question of a Soviet nuclear stockpile was causing international concern. He gave reassurances that the weapons are firmly under control, and that none of the republican presidents had the chance of using them separately. Marshall Shaposhnikov said both long- and short-range missiles, as well as their launchers, would be placed under the center's control.

Content of Text of New Military Oath Appraised

PM1912161791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Dec 91 Union Edition p 1

[Report by V. Litovkin: "M. Gorbachev Has Approved the Text of the New Military Oath. Who Will Take It, and Where?"]

[Excerpts] USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev issued a decree 13 December 1991 approving a new text for the military oath. [passage omitted] It is not difficult to note that the new text of the oath—which is the most important or, more precisely, the main military legal document—contains not a single ideologized concept. There is no mention of "a citizen of the USSR," nor do the words "Soviet Government" or "USSR Constitution" appear. There is reference to the constitution, the state, and the Motherland, but now nobody can give precise answers as to what stands behind these words.

Certain experts claim that such political and legal ambiguity is the result of the fact that the draft oath had lain idle in the president's office for approximately two months—since 20 October—and was only signed finally under pressure from the military, as several conscripts had refused to sign the text of the old "over-ideologized" oath.

The Defense Ministry confirms that the new oath will not be taken by the whole Army, but only those beginning their service now. And there is no guarantee that this will be the case for all the Armed Forces. It is not excluded that a different text may be used in Ukraine for the ground forces in the three districts declared by President L. Kravchuk to be the Ukrainian Army. In fact, Kiev has already confirmed this.

Nevertheless, new recruits among troops in the strategic deterrent forces, those under central jurisdiction, forces on Russian territory, in Central Asia, and in Kazakhstan, and in the groups of forces, including troops in the Baltic Region, will sign precisely this new text of the oath. And obviously, once a treaty is concluded on joint defense and collective security, this text will be adopted on the territory of all republics acceding to the treaty. One of the main items in the treaty will be an accord on unified military legislation, which also means a common text for the oath.

One more fact to ponder. As of 17 December, with two weeks to go to the end of the fall draft, 59.4 percent of conscripts had registered in the ranks of the nonexistent Union's Armed Forces. The draft is still going on, albeit haltingly. So there will be somebody to take the new oath.

Baltic Affairs

Seminar Demands Soviet Troop Withdrawal

OW1912164791 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1215 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the ongoing seminar "Baltic Security Requirements" in Vilnius, Deputy Chairman of the Lithuanian parliament Ceslovas Stankevicius made a report on Lithuanian security. The North-Atlantic Assembly was one of the seminar's sponsors.

Mr. Stankevicius noted that although Soviet troops stationed in Lithuania have stated clearly their respect for the Baltics' sovereignty and laws, the threat of using military force appears to be real.

Participants in the seminar were shown documents with threats against the Lithuanian government sent from the Soviet military units in Lithuania.

"The minimal conditions for Lithuania's security will appear only after full withdrawal of Soviet troops which should be started immediately and completed in 1992," Mr. Stankevicius told the seminar.

He also urged NATO countries and some other states to give financial aid to Soviet troops being withdrawn from the republic. In his opinion, it could serve as "an investment into the cause of the Baltics' security and stability." The proposal that the NATO countries' observation and information bureau be set up in Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipeda were made at the seminar.

Estonian and Latvian Representatives Also Demand Withdrawal of Soviet Troops

E. Priks, member of the Estonian parliamentary commission on defense, has spoken before the seminar in Vilnius. He noted, in particular, that the main threat to Estonia comes from Soviet troops located on its territory. Mr. Priks cited several facts of their violating Estonian laws and stirring up tension. Therefore, the republican authorities demand that Soviet forces completely pull out of Estonia during next year.

Mr. Priks said the Soviet military occupy 85,000 hectares or 2% of the republican territory, while 45,000 troops make up only 3% of the Estonian population.

Speaking at the seminar, Latvian Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis also demanded the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Latvia. He said it should begin immediately and be completed in 1994.

Delegate on Withdrawal

LD1912101491 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2000 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] The North Atlantic Assembly session on the security needs of the Baltic states is continuing in the conference hall of the Lietuva Hotel in Vilnius.

At the morning session, Ceslovas Stankevicius, the head of the Lithuanian delegation, read a report prepared by the leadership of the Supreme Council about the necessary prerequisites for the security of the Lithuanian state. The speaker stated that although the leadership of the Northwestern Group of the Soviet Army has asserted that it supports the sovereignty of the Baltic states and has promised strictly to observe their laws, the threats of force and armed coercion are also real. Threatening documents that the republican leadership received recently by the Soviet military units deployed on the republic's territory were shown to the participants in the seminar. The minimum prerequisite for Lithuania's security will exist only after the complete withdrawal of the Soviet Army. Its withdrawal should begin without delay and be completed in 1992, Stankevicius stressed.

The report prepared by the leadership of the Supreme Council asks NATO and other countries to provide financial aid in connection with the Soviet withdrawal, which would be an investment in the security and stability of the Baltic states, and to set up NATO observation and information offices in Vilnius, Kaunas, and Klaipeda. The report also notes that in 1940 the Soviet Union confiscated all the weapons and military equipment of the Lithuanian Army. These losses must be compensated for. The NATO countries are asked to supply all other arms needed by the Lithuanian Army.

Political and military aspects of the security of the Estonian state were described by [name indistinct], member of the Defense Commission of the Estonian Supreme Council.

In his report, Latvian defense minister demanded the withdrawal of the Soviet Army from that country.

The representatives of the Baltic states also expressed their views on the national armies, their formation, future arms, and [passage indistinct]. On 19 December the session will continue its work. Reports will be made by members of the delegations of the former Soviet republics. A visit to the Soviet military bases [words indistinct] is planned.

UN Help Requested With Troop Withdrawal

PM1912142191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Dec 91 Union Edition p 5

[S. Guk report: "Troop Withdrawals From Baltic States Could Begin Before 1994"]

[Text] A letter signed by the three Baltic States has been distributed in the United Nations. In their opinion, the

world community should use its authority to induce Moscow to withdraw Soviet troops from Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian territory immediately. The letter claims: "There is no justification for the continued presence of Soviet Armed Forces on the territory of the Baltic states."

Where do the Baltic state leaders see the threat to their independence? "At the moment, given that the Soviet state is disintegrating, there is a real possiblity that the former Union will be unable to go on managing its Armed Forces stationed in the Baltic states... Furthermore, over the last few weeks, representatives of extremist groups in the former USSR have publicly challenged the legality of Baltic independence and threatened the governments of the Baltic states." (Excerpt from the same letter).

It is blatantly obvious that Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia have recently shown increasing preference for appealing to the West without waiting for the start of official talks with Moscow on troop withdrawals—that is, without exhausting the possibilities for finding an acceptable compromise. V. Landsbergis issued a statement on "the threat of a Soviet Army-KGB plot," urging West Europe to act as a guarantee of Lithuanian security. Estonian Foreign Minister L. Meri is calling upon the United Nations to send "Blue Berets" to the Baltic region for the very same reason—to stave off the threat from the USSR.

Every state has the right to safeguard itself by means of UN contingents. If the world community deems that the situation in the Baltic region does in fact warrant international intervention, this means that troops will be sent. However, things are less straightforward with regard to the immediate withdrawal of the Northwestern Group of Forces. Konstantin Ivanovich Kobets, chairman of the USSR State Council Committee for Preparing and Implementing Military Reform, spoke to IZVESTIYA's correspondent on this subject:

[Kobets] At the moment I see no grounds for claiming that local garrisons in the Baltic region might suddenly become unmanageable. As for the threat posed, it has to be said that the troops stationed on the territory of the three Baltic Republics are mainly for strategic purposes. It is quite clear that there can be no talk of their having any influence on the development of events in the Baltic region. There are some land assault forces there. However, in line with USSR Defense Ministry leadership directives, they have no right to intervene in the actions of local authorities under any circumstances. Moreover, both the Defense Ministry and the Russian leadership are prepared to conclude an agreement with the three Baltic states that our troops will not carry out maneuvers without their consent. Incidentally, we have even suspended a number of scheduled training measures.

The Russian leadership is also ready to examine at the meeting the question of withdrawing the section of troops which cannot be categorized as strategic from the Baltic region before 1994, when our troops will return to the motherland from Germany. We are prepared to plan for this kind of schedule, proceeding all the while from the reality of the situation: Our people have to be billeted somewhere.

[IZVESTIYA] Are you not afraid that the authorities in the Baltic region may begin to create intolerable conditions for our troops, which could provoke retaliatory action?

[Kobets] Although there have been isolated instances of this (for example, individual garrisons have been deprived of the basic living necessities), I will continue to hope for common sense on the part of the leadership of the three republics. And we have issued strict orders not to yield to any provocation... [Kobets ends]

...Finally, it is still possible to find a peaceful way out of this situation: It must be realized that it is impossible to throw an army out of a republic insofar as this army is made up of living people and families. These are the words of Latvian Foreign Minister J. Jurkans. Are the other political activists in the Baltic region aware of this simple truth? After all, it would seem that it is not in their interests to push the situation to a critical juncture either.

Soviet Foreign Debt Bills Reported

LD1912155391 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 0200 GMT 15 Dec

[Text] Ivan Silayev, chairman of the Interrepublican Committee for the Management of the Economy, said in Moscow today that the Council of the Leaders of the Governments of the Sovereign States, which is headed by Mikhail Gorbachev, has signed the statement concerning the sharing of the foreign debts. A part of the debt has been allotted to the Baltic states. According to Ivan Silayev, the calculation of this share of the debt has already been sent to the Baltic states. Having remarked that the Baltic countries have already expressed their readiness on principle to take on a part of the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union, Ivan Silayev said that the question remains unresolved how these debts should be calculated. He hoped that a solution acceptable to both sides would be found. As is known the Lithuanian Government had stated on more than one occasion that Lithuania was prepared to pay only those credits which had been directly invested of late in the enterprises of Lithuania. According to the calculation made by the specialists of the Lithuanian Ministry of Economy, the debt would ammount to $37 million. Meanwhile the Soviet speak about a $100 million.

Baltic Sea Countries Plan To Create Council

OW1912003191 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2100 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The beginning of 1992 will perhaps see the creation of a Council of Baltic Sea Countries, which is to be composed

of their foreign ministers. The countries which are planning to take part in its work include Scandinavian countries, Germany, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Russia. According to Mr. Guntis Valuyev, director of the political department of Latvia's Foreign Ministry, the aim of this organisation is to coordinate actions in the area of economy, protection of the environment, and development of communications systems.

Estonia

New Party Urges Government To Resign

LD1912190391 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] The Party of Consolidation has stated that conflicts within Estonian society are deepening. This is reflected in cooperation between the Supreme Council and the government, which is deteriorating more and more.

It is natural in democratic states for the government, which has lost the support of the parliament, to step down, thus giving an opportunity for a coalition government to be set up with the support of the majority in the parliament.

The Party of Consolidation sees the resignation of the present government and the establishment of a new, wide-based coalition government as the sole solution for the domestic political crisis that has evolved. The Party of Consolidation does not see it as possible to continue cooperation with the present government and considers itself to be in opposition, says the statement of the Party of Consolidation.

Foreign Minister on Visits to Europe, Russia

LD1912172791 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] The Baltic News Service reports that, at a news conference today, Estonian Foreign Minister Lennart Meri briefly summed up his visit to European countries.

The key aim of the tour was to draw the attention of Europe, and the Nordic countries in particular, to the security vacuum that has emerged, as well as the accompanying problem of an economic vacuum. [passage indistinct] one will have to act to preclude this using any preventative means at our disposal, down to a call for assistance from UN forces, Lennart Meri emphasized.

Lennart Meri also touched upon his visit to Moscow yesterday. After an hour-and-a-half-long conversation with Boris Yeltsin, our foreign minister was left with the impression that the Russian leader needs Estonian political support. At the same time, a certain inflexibility was felt in the attitude of the Russian president on the issue of the withdrawal of the Soviet Army, said the foreign minister.

Drawing attention to the creation of the new formation, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Estonian Foreign Ministry has presented a request to NATO to also invite Russian representatives to their session in December.

Border Troops Allowed Into Republic

LD2012113191 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2152 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Estonian Government has authorized the entry to the republic of the reinforcement units of the Baltic frontier military district. On December 17, Estonian police blocked the train with recruits of border-guard units and Soviet Army soldiers, who would have to pass their service on the Estonian territory. For that reason the train was re-routed to the Leningrad region. During negotiations, held on December 18-19 between the troops commander of the Baltic Frontier District, Lieut. General Valentin Gaponenko and representatives of the republican leadership, an agreement was reached providing that 300 border-guard recruits would do service on the Estonian territory. The remaining 300 people, who were on the train, would stay in North-Western Frontier District.

Republic To Arm Border Guards With KGB Weapons

LD2012102991 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] According to the Baltic News Service, Olev Laanjarv, Estonian minister of internal affairs, asserted that the Ministry of Internal Affairs will finish collecting arms from the ex-USSR KGB in Estonia. These arms will be handed to border guards. According to both the minister of internal affairs and Edgar Savisaar, government leader, these arms will not suffice. According to what Oleg Laanjarv said, it would not be possible to buy arms from Western states either. The Western states have adopted a rigid position with regard to selling arms to us. For this reason, one is forced to resort to other channels, the minister of internal affairs stated. For now the minister did not wish to say what these other channels might be.

Lithuania

Russia Asked To Extradite 23 From Jan 'Tragedy'

LD2012000191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1950 GMT 19 Dec 91

[By correspondent Kazis Ustsila]

[Text] Vilnius, 19 Dec (TASS)—At the present time, sufficient evidence has been gathered to institute criminal proceedings against those involved in the January tragedy in Vilnius. This was stated today at a news conference by Arturas Palauskas, Lithuania's general procurator. He stated that the chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council has sent a letter to the Russian president which raises the question of extraditing 23 persons accused of organizing and implementing

reprisals against civilian inhabitants on 13 January 1991, when 14 people died near the Vilnius television center.

The letter gives the surnames of former leaders of the Lithuanian Communist Party (CPSU)—Mykolas Burokevicius; Joazas Jermalavicius; Algimantas Naudziunas; Oleg Shenin, former secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; former USSR Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov; former KGB Chairman Kryuchkov; General Vladimir Uskhopchik, former chief of the Vilnius military garrrison; Colonel Grigoriy Belousov, commander of the garrison; Boleslav Makutynovich, former commander of the Vilnius OMON [special purpose militia detachment]; USSR internal affairs ministers; and others.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Confirms Gorbachev To Resign in Dec

LD2012034291 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0300 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Excerpts] RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin is in Rome on an official two-day visit. [passage omitted]

Boris Yelstin invited Italian President Francesco Cossiga to visit Russia. Yeltsin confirmed during talks with the Italian Council of Ministers chairman that Russian price deregulation will start on 2 January. He also revealed at a brief meeting with journalists that Gorbachev will resign in December and that Russia will again become a great power [velikaya strana].

Union Foreign Ministry Abolished by Decree

OW1912182791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The USSR Foreign Ministry dispersed under the agreement on a Commonwealth of Independent States including its buildings, other property and equipment, also embassies and other foreign representations, goes under the jurisdiction of Russia's Foreign Ministry. A decree to that effect was signed Dec 18 by Russia's President Boris Yeltsin.

The decree stipulates talks to be held within a month with the members of the Commonwealth and other sovereign states which were former Union republics on coordinating and consultative mechanisms of foreign affairs.

The expenses on foreign representations of the former Ministry will be covered from Russia's budget until shares are agreed on by the sovereign states.

TASS Summarizes Decree

LD1912221391 Moscow TASS in English 1821 GMT 19 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[Text] Moscow December 19 TASS—The USSR Foreign Ministry is eliminated as of Thursday [19 December] since the Russian Federation Supreme Council ratified the agreement to create the Commonwealth of Independent States. Under the decree signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday, the Russian Foreign Ministry has been instructed to assume the management of the Foreign Ministry of the USSR, including buildings, property and equipment. Educational establishments and economic facilities that were under the supervision of the USSR Foreign Ministry, as well as embassies, consulates and other missions abroad will also be transferred to Russian Foreign Ministry control.

The decree allots a period of four weeks to create a new organisational and personnel structure for the ministry and to submit proposals for effective employment of staff from the USSR Foreign Ministry. It is proposed to conduct within a month negotiations with member-states of the Commonwealth and other sovereign states about creating a common coordination and consultative mechanism to conduct foreign policy.

A provision about the Russian Foreign Ministry should be worked out by January 1, 1992. State protocol service ensuring uniform practice as regards protocol in the Russian Federation should be created by the same date. The Russian Ministry of Economy and Finance has been instructed to envisage ways to meet expenditures of institutions abroad ffom the Russian Federation's budget until agreement is reached on sharing the financing of institutions of the former Soviet Foreign Ministry with the sovereign states.

Deputy Minister Discusses Future

LD1912235691 Moscow TASS in English 2311 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow December 19 TASS—"After Russia, Ukraine and Belarus have recently denounced the 1922 treaty, the Soviet Union no longer exists, so further existence of the USSR Foreign Ministry would be illogical," said Boris Kolokolov, Russian deputy foreign minister. At the request of TASS, he commented on the decree signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday [18 December]. In accordance with the decree the Russian Foreign Ministry has been instructed to assume control over property and equipment of the all-Union ministry that is abolished.

Kolokolov said the decree confirms :he Russian leaders rational approach to the principle of independence.

Asked by TASS if this would only mean the change of the signboard, Kolokolov said he rejects such an approach. He added that a considerable reorganisation of the ministry will be effected in the near future.

In the foreign policy area, member states of the Commonwealth will have equal relations. They are based on bilateral agreements that have already been concluded, he said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry has a staff of only 240 and it will be considerably increased. As to the lot of staffers of the USSR Foreign Ministry he said that "real professionals will not be jobless."

Regarding the destiny of the USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Kolokolov said: "He is above all a major political figure. I do not know if he would want to join the Russian Foreign Ministry. It is for him to decide." Kolokolov also said that "the element of continuity is very important in this matter. The final decision, hovewer, will be taken by Yeltsin."

The attempts of TASS to learn the response of officials of the USSR Foreign Ministry to Yeltsin's decree proved futile. "What comments do you expect? We would like someone to explain to us something," said Vitaliy Churkin, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman.

New Name 'Still Provisional'

LD1912215991 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Dec 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] As of today, according to a decree by Boris Yeltsin, the USSR Ministry for External Affairs is abolished. Its property is to be taken over by the RSFSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A decree has also been signed on the formation of a Ministry for Security and Internal Affairs of Russia. This title is not yet confirmed. It is still provisional. A Ministry of Defense and Internal Affairs of the RSFSR will be set up on the basis of the abolished ministries of Internal Affairs of the USSR and RSFSR, the Interrepublic Security Service, and the Federal Security Agency of the RSFSR. Viktor Barannikov has been appointed minister of security and internal affairs of the RSFSR.

Yeltsin Decree on Security, Internal Ministry

LD1912185991 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1651 GMT 19 Dec 91

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] On December 19, RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on setting up the RSFSR Ministry of Security and the Interior.

The RSFSR presidential decree says, in particular: Pursuant to the ratification by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet of the treaty on the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States on December 8, 1991, and in order to ensure the security of the Russian Federation, I hereby decree:

1. To establish the Ministry of Security and the Interior of the RSFSR; to carry out the establishment of the ministry on the basis of the disbanded USSR Ministry of the Interior, the RSFSR Ministry of the Interior, the Interrepublican Security Service and the RSFSR Agency of Federal Security [AFS]; to establish that, under the legislation in force, all the buildings and constructions, as well as the material-technical means, data bases and systems, official documents and other property of the disbanded ministries and agencies will become the state property of the RSFSR.

The minister of security and the interior of the RSFSR shall form, without delay, relative commissions, and provide full acceptance of the said property by the Ministry of Security and the Interior of the RSFSR.

2. The Ministry of Security and the Interior of the RSFSR not later than in a month shall develop and submit for approval regulations on the ministry and its structure and create an independent service to provide the state security of the RSFSR.

3. To establish that the employees of the Ministry of Security and the Interior of the RSFSR and its bodies shall preserve norms and procedures for material supplies, rights, benefits and advantages, granted to the corresponding categories of employees of the bodies of state security and the interior.

4. The RSFSR Government shall provide, while drafting the 1992 budget, required financial and material resources to provide proper functioning of the system of the Ministry of Security and the Interior of the RSFSR.

5. To provide guaranteed social protection for servicemen and officers, as well as employees of the disbanded ministries and agencies; to establish that by July 1, 1992, employees with expired length of service, as well as those to be dismissed from the agencies due to personnel reductions will be considered within the supervision of the Ministry of Security and the Interior of the RSFSR. The minister of security and the interior of the RSFSR shall preserve for the service skilled leaders, task force employees, investigators and other categories of employees, necessary for reliable functioning of the newly created ministry.

6. The Ministry of Security and the Interior of the RSFSR, in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice of the RSFSR, shall submit, within a 6-month term, proposals to be amended in the legal acts in connection with creation of the new ministry.

Yeltsin has also signed a decree on appointment: Victor Barannikov, former minister of the interior of the USSR, is appointed as minister of security and the interior of the RSFSR.

Commenting on the decree, former RSFSR Minister of the Interior Andrey Dunayev said to PF [POSTFACTUM]: The decree was adopted in a proper time and I completely support it. Dunayev explained his position by the urgency to establish a single center to combat crime and defend the RSFSR state security. He called Barannikov's candidature a very successful choice. According to Dunayev, the parallel structures of the ministry and agency will be joined. Speaking about his further work, Dunayev reported: I am absolutely unaware of what it will be. This is the business of Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and Burbulis.

According to unofficial sources close to the AFS's leadership, many AFS's employees criticized the idea of combining two departments. An AFS employee, who wished to remain anonymous, close to the entourage of former agency general director Victor Ivanenko, told PF: It is most likely that Ivanenko will resign. And most of our people will leave.

RSFSR General Procurator Valentin Stepankov, speaking to the Supreme Soviet deputies, assessed the

decree on setting up the RSFSR Ministry of the Interior and Security based on the RSFSR Ministry of the Interior and RSFSR Agency of Federal Security by saying: Absurdity grows.

The RSFSR presidential decree on creating the Ministry of Security and the Interior and the RSFSR [as received] was strongly criticized by members of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Committee on Security, said Nikolay Kuznetsov, chairman of the Subcommittee on State Security at RSFSR Supreme Soviet Committee on Security. He also reported that: The decree draft has not been examined by any deputy group. The consequences of the decree are unpredictable—the state security employees will leave like in an avalanche. According to Kuznetsov, the decree was initiated by the leadership of the RSFSR Ministry of the Interior.

Since the Supreme Soviet of Russia passed all its powers on forming the structures of state power to the president, it will be very difficult for the parliament to influence the president in any way, Kuznetsov believes. At the same time, Kuznetsov thinks that the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Committee on Security will call for lifting the RSFSR presidential decree.

New Ministry 'Detrimental'

LD1912222391 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1920 GMT 19 Dec 91

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Vladimir Varov, chairman of Subcommittee for Legal Aspects of the Reform of Political System at the Russian parliamentary Committee for Legislation, assesses negatively the decree on the creation of Russian Ministry of Security and the Interior. Vladimir Varov told PF [POSTFACTUM]: The parliament has the right to interfere in the work of the president on this matter. This merger will be not only detrimental in itself. In the long run, the president himself will suffer from it. He will lose information sources independent from each other. We all know what can be the result of information monopoly. In the opinion of Varov, there are other ways to resolve personnel problems. Andrey Oligov, head of the Public Relations Center of the Agency of Federal Security, told PF that, according to the information of the Agency of Federal Security, Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee for Security Sergey Stepashin, First Deputy Prime Minister Gennadiy Burbulis and Deputy Prime Minister, State Adviser Sergey Shakhray strongly opposed the signing of the decree on the creation of the RSFSR Ministry of Security and the Interior.

Decree 'A Practical Step'

PM2012091891 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 20 Dec 91 p 1

[I. Sichka, V. Filin report: "Cheka, VChK, KGB, FSA. Etc., Everywhere"]

[Text] On 19 December, before leaving for Italy, Russian President B. Yeltsin signed Decree No. 289 "On the Formation of the RSFSR Ministry of Security and Internal Affairs." It decrees the formation, in the place of the USSR ISS [International Security Service] (formerly the KGB), RSFSR FSA [Federal Security Agency], USSR MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], and RSFSR MVD, of a new department—the RSFSR Ministry of Security and Internal Affairs. According to unofficial reports, it is proposed to appoint Viktor Barannikov, currently USSR minister of internal affairs, as chief.

By all appearances, this decree is a practical step toward fulfilling the Russian leadership's promise to eliminate, or else reassign to Russian jurisdiction, all the Union structures by the end of the year. In the opinion of professionals, it is premature to speak of the possible consequences of a merging of the special services. However, it is obvious that the formation of the new structure will generate a great many problems and is hardly likely to benefit the noble cause of combating crime in the immediate future.

First, our own country's historical experience indicates that any monopoly is harmful, and a monopoly in the sphere of the special services is doubly so. Although times have changed, one cannot help recalling tragic memories of the MGB [Ministry of State Security] in the forties and fifties.

Second, there is presently no legal base for the operation of the new structure. Under the decree six months is allowed solely for drawing up proposals for amendments to legislative acts. They will then have to be discussed and adopted in parliament.

One could no doubt also exmaine other aspects, some of them positive, of the decree (for instance, the fact that the reorganization does not affect the foreign intelligence service). But one thing is indisputable: On the eve of the professional holiday, Cheka-KGB Day, the chekists have received a very unexpected gift.

Shakhray To Become Deputy Prime Minister

LD1912143291 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] The (RIKA) agency reports that Sergey Shakhray is preparing to take up the post of deputy prime minister in the Russian Government. He will be in charge together with the Ministry of Justice, the Federal Security Agency, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Shakhray will be entrusted with backing up the conducting of economic reforms with state legislation.

Remarks on Internal Security

PM1912100391 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Dec 91 p 1

[S. Razin report: "Is Counseling Easier? Another Vice Premier in the Russian Government"]

[Text] The Russian government is being reinforced: State Counselor Sergey Shakhray has been appointed

vice premier responsible for providing legal support for the radical reforms. The Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD], the Ministry of Justice, the Federal Security Agency, and the Committee on Nationalities Policy now come under him. Moreover, Shakhray has been instructed to set up the Russian presidential state law administration, which will monitor the activity of law-enforcement agencies and the implementation of judicial reform. "We have been engaged in reorganizing the MVD and the Federal Security Agency for the past 24 hours," Shakhray told a news conference. Since the collapse of Union structures he sees his main task as preventing a new explosion within the former KGB. Therefore the changes here should be carried out very precisely, but without unnecessary haste.

In the vice premier's opinion, the upcoming meeting in Alma-Ata, where the membership of the Commonwealth of Independent States is expected to grow, will not lead to a new postponement of the start of economic reforms and liberalization of prices.

As is well known, Gorbachev recently accused Shakhray and Burbulis of "deflecting President Yeltsin from the right path" and provoking in many respects the outcome of the Belovezhskaya Forest meeting. At the news conference Shakhray treated this statement as a compliment to him. Such an eventuality was indeed examined at a Russian State Council conference held behind closed doors after the failure of the putsch. True, it remains unclear how the secret document landed up in Gorbachev's Kremlin office.

Yeltsin Issues Decree on President's Property

LD1912193591 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued a number of decrees. According to these decrees, the economic directorate of the administration of the RSFSR president has been charged with transferring all the buildings—including the Kremlin—all the property and funds—including hard currency funds—and all the personnel of the president of the USSR and the Interstate Economic Committee to the RSFSR budget. The decree extends to the remaining bodies of the former USSR on the territory of Russia, with the exception of the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Atomic Energy and Industry of the USSR.

By decree of the Russian president on 19 December, a Ministry of Security and Internal Affairs of the RSFSR will be set up on the basis of the abolished Ministries of Internal Affairs of the USSR and RSFSR, the Interrepublic Security Service, and the Federal Security Agency of the RSFSR. All their property switches to the state ownership of Russia.

Yeltsin Decree on International Aid Commission

PM2012104591 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Dec 91 First Edition p 1

[Decree of the RSFSR President "On the Organization of Work on the Receipt, Transportation, and Distribution of International Humanitarian and Technical Aid on the Territory of the RSFSR," dated 16 December 1991, The Kremlin, Moscow and signed by RSFSR President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] In view of the expanding scale of international humanitarian aid and the need to ensure collaboration between the RSFSR Government and foreign countries' governments and public and business circles on questions of humanitarian and technical aid during the econonic reform, I resolve that:

1. A Commission on Questions of International Humanitarian and Technical Aid be set up under the RSFSR Government to coordinate the activities of state and public organs and organizations associated with the receipt, transportation, and distribution of international humanitarian and technical aid to the RSFSR.

2. Aleksandr Nikolayevich Shokhin, deputy chairman of the RSFSR Government, be appointed head of the Commission on Questions of International Humanitarian and Technical Aid under the RSFSR Government.

A.N. Shokhin is to submit the membership of the Commission and its statute for approval by the RSFSR Government within 10 days.

3. On agreement with E.A. Panfilova, RSFSR minister for the social protection of the population, Yu.V. Petrov, head of the RSFSR President's Administration, is to notify the apparatus of the RSFSR Ministry for the Social Protection of the Population of the staff numbers and the wages fund and technical and material support for the Commission on Humanitarian and Technical Aid under the RSFSR president.

4. RSFSR presidential decree No. 219 of 18 November 1991 is to be deemed invalid.

[Signed] RSFSR President B. Yeltsin
The Kremlin, Moscow, 16 December 1991

Yeltsin's Trust in Land Forces Command Doubted

LD1912190591 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1651 GMT 19 Dec 91

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Some foreign military diplomats believe Yeltsin has no trust for land forces command. This is one of the main reasons why units of the land forces, unlike rocket forces, anti-aircraft defence, air force, and main naval forces, will be placed under Russian jurisdiction and will be included in the joint forces of the Commonwealth of

Independent States, believe some foreign military diplomats accredited in Moscow. According to their information, Yeltsin now has full confidence only to the command of the air force and landing troops. The command of the rocket troops and the Navy may soon be replaced.

Government Session Views Presidential Decrees

PM1912145391 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Dec 91 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "At the RSFSR Government: Tomorrow's Budget"]

[Text] A routine session of the Russian Federation Government took place 18 December, chaired by President B.N. Yeltsin.

The session examined the president's decrees and adopted government resolutions on budget plans for 1992 and the draft republic budget for the first quarter of 1992, on sharing out property at state management level, and also on measures to liberalize foreign economic activity, including questions of forming Russia's hard-currency reserve in 1992, introducing an export tariff for individual goods exported outside the Russian Federation, and licensing and regulating [kvotirovaniye] imports and exports of goods (work, services) to and from the republic's territory.

Among the most important documents a package of Russian presidential decrees and government resolutions on implementing land reform was also adopted, making provision for a procedure for reorganizing collective and state farms and forming state food stocks for 1992.

The session devoted particular attention to considering the Russian president's decrees designed to increase social protection for the republic's population. They include decrees "On Additional Measures To Provide the Population with Social Support in 1992," "On Increasing Compensation Payments in 1991-92 and the Procedure for Indexing the Population's Monetary Income in 1992," and "On Nonstate Pension Funds."

Questions relating to Russia's state coat of arms and flag were discussed. In this connection the government approved a number of amendments to the Russian Constitution that the president will submit to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet as a legislative initiative.

Minister Announces Land Reform Decision

LD1912204691 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] New RSFSR Agriculture Minister Viktor Khlystun favors a strict separation between the state and economic management functions where the agrarian sector of the Russian economy is concerned. Familiarizing journalists with the main directions of the activities of the agrarian department, he reported that a package of decrees and decisions has been compiled. These include a decision on the land reform and what you have just heard. In both cases, what is at stake is to form such farms where it is presupposed that in the course of the first six months of the next year, a significant number of collective and state farms will be reorganized to form associations of peasant farms, stressed Viktor Khlystun.

Proposals of 'Reform Cabinet' Assessed

PM2012130491 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 20 Dec 91 p 1

[S. Razin article under the rubric "The Way We Live": "No Chickens, But Plenty of Eagles"]

[Text] Russia is to have a new coat of arms, which, however, is very familiar to us: A golden two-headed eagle is displayed against a claret-colored background. "Only don't say that this is the nature of Burbulis—he just wants to peck someone," Gennadiy Eduardovich [Burbulis] warned, displaying the fine sketches at a press conference. He promised that the eagle in the picture will not be too fierce. But what will the government be like in the new year?

One of Ye. Gaydar's advisers hinted to me that the time has come urgently to sell dollars for rubles. Maybe this advice has an element of black humor, but the "reform cabinet" went for broke at its latest session. All machine building plants were granted the right to send any output for export, free from all requisitions or customs duty. Although we still have some difficulties with machines, the shrewd economic managers have dozens of business options in reserve—not for nothing did former Premier Ryzhkov try to suppress them. There will be more hard currency in Russia. The government has adopted new export tariffs for oil, gas, timber, and other raw materials. It is now possible to trade freely in "black gold," but in order to do so it is necessary to buy a license and a quota at auction, and to sell 40 percent of the currency revenue to the exchequer at a fixed rate.

The budget policy adopted by the government will also quite quickly strengthen the ruble and accelerate the rise of the exchange rate against the dollar. The ministers, seeking to put an end to reckless emissions, intend to draw up a state budget without a deficit. Arms purchases from the military-industrial complex have been cut by one-third, and subsidies and capital investments from the exchequer are reduced to the minimum. There will, however, be more income for the common fund. First, the new tax system will begin to operate like a powerful pump, promising to produce some 1.6 trillion rubles [R]. And that sum will increase as inflation increases. Gaydar knows what kind of taxes Russia needs... Second, unconventional sources of finance have been discovered: Uncompleted construction projects, for instance, will be auctioned off lock, stock, and barrel, and according to various estimates, that could bring the exchequer between R50 billion and R150 billion. Large-scale privatization will also not go for nothing: Next year it could well bring in some R300 billion. So everything indicates

that the population will have less rubles in cash, while Russia will have more hard currency.

Major changes now lie in store for the countryside too. The government has adopted a package of land reform resolutions: Hard times are ahead for sovkhozes and kolkhozes. On the one hand, Yeltsin's agents have the right to distribute to citizens up to 20 percent of sovkhoz land, and at least 2 million of these citizens are to be enlisted. On the other hand, the kolkhoz members are also free to choose whether they will take their share of the common farm and set up on their own, or carry on drudging like in the old days. In the new year agricultural produce will be purchased under contracts, but at free prices—both from private farmers and from kolkhozes. The peasants are entitled to sell the residual crop privately or take the whole lot to a fair or commodity exchange. Those are the government's plans on the key problem—the formation of food stocks for 1992.

After the countryside, the city will also set off on the way to capitalism. At their session the ministers took two major steps toward real privatization in industry. Henceforth the "iceberg" of the state sector will be chopped into several big parts: federal, municipal, and other kinds of property. To each its own: the most important facilities to the government, and all the rest to the Russian cities and villages, including the autonomous formations and republics within the RSFSR. Thus privatization will get under way in all spheres at once. So that citizens are better able to tell which shares to buy, it was decided to set up investment funds which will speed up and simplify privatization and make the process more public.

There is also news about social protection for the population. The government immediately approved three presidential decrees on this problem. As prices rise, pensions, stipends, and various grants to the poorly off will be adjusted quarterly, along with the wages of teachers, doctors, and others who are paid "from the budget." Some 60 percent of the exchequer's annual expenditure will go on these matters—nearly R1.4 trillion! Moreover the social security system will be privatized in the near future. Instead of the bureaucratic structure, there will be nonstate pension funds which will ensure more reliable social protection for elderly people.

Will the "reform cabinet" be able to put these far-reaching plans into practice? Alas, there are still plenty of skeptics on this point. But Polish Vice Premier Walcerowicz is not one of them. At a press conference immediately after his meeting with President Yeltsin, the well-known economist said that the steps being taken will certainly produce tangible results quickly. Russia even has some advantages over Poland: At Russian enterprises, for instance, there are no structures like "Solidarity," which, through its populism, clearly held back the economic reforms. Furthermore it is very important that the single economic area of the former Union is preserved.

So it seems there are considerable grounds for optimism. But in my heart of hearts I am still uneasy—it is exactly 11 days to the start of the radical reform...

Rutskoy: White House 'A Place of Intrigues'

LD1812092191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0702 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow, 18 Dec (TASS)—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes an interview today with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, in which he declared that "in Russia now there is no authority and no democracy".

"Democracy is unthinkable without tolerance, without respect for other people's convictions," the vice president stressed. "And yet in our country today the self-same people who devoted their entire lives to teaching 'scientific communism' are unleashing a 'witch hunt' and demanding that anyone who held any post in the Party hierarchy should not be allowed near any managerial work".

"In Russia, both before the reform and today, those in power interpret the laws to suit themselves," Rutskoy declared. "And here are the results: runaway prices, speculation, financial inflation, falling production, disruption of contractual relations and of supplies, and fuel crisis".

The vice president thinks prices cannot be freed (scheduled to start on 2 January 1992—TASS note) without privatization, and land and financial reform. In Rutskoy's opinion, it was "a serious mistake" for Russian President Boris Yeltsin to take on the role of head of government: "Boris Nikolayevich took this step sincerely, but, it seems to me, out of a sense of desperation. But one cannot, one cannot take everything upon oneself".

According to the vice president, he has had no chance to talk frankly with Boris Yeltsin for six months. "I asked: let's find a couple of hours to have a chat. But those around him do everything they can to make sure only selected people get access to him." In Aleksandr Rutskoy's view, the Russian White House "has become a place of intrigues. And no one knows where we are going, what our goal is." Rutskoy declared that he regards Yeltsin "with great affection": "I thank fate for bringing me together with such a man. And I would like to keep working with him."

To judge from his words, A. Rutskoy has no intention of resigning. "We were elected by the people to work together. I think the people should in the final analysis decide whether I should resign or not", he stated.

Kozyrev Stresses Need for 'Nuclear Guarantees'

LD2012044691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0310 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow, 20 Dec (TASS)—"The danger of being buried under the disintegrated empire's rubble is fading after the signing of the agreement between the leaders of

Russia, the Ukraine, and Belarus," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev says in a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA interview published today. "Creating the Commonwealth of Independent States is a formula which separates us from the Yugoslav variant."

The minister said that "returning to the ranks of natural partners and allies" is one of the priorities in Russia's foreign policy. "Russia occupied a respectable place among such states as France, Germany, and the United States at the end of the previous century and the beginning of this century," he underlined, "and it is necessary that we return to this circle." Another priority, Andrey Kozyrev pointed out, is to "subordinate our actions in foreign matters to normal economic interests."

"The concept of Russia's national security is now being worked out," the minister noted. "One must assess keeping in mind that nobody in the West intends to attack us. Yet this does not mean that we should totally and unilaterally disarm ourselves. We should retain some kind of nuclear guarantees for ourselves. Most likely, Russia will have to take this task on itself, not on its own but in cooperation [sodruzhestvo]."

A. Kozyrev stressed that Russia should help other great powers ensure world peace.

Spending Cut on Defense Orders Forecast

LD1912144991 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] A decision is expected from the leadership of Russia on reductions from January 1 next year on the financing of orders from by the Defense Ministry to the military-industrial complex. Orders on some types of armaments and military equipment may be cut by 66 to 75 percent. It is also possible that spending on scientific research and experimental and design work will be slightly decreased.

It is proposed that the means that become available will be used to finance social programs for servicemen. A decision on the financing of conversion has still not been adopted.

Official on Reduction in Arms Production

LD1912105391 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2210 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] In the upcoming year the Government of the Russian Federation, manufacturing about 80 percent of the Soviet armaments, is expected to set aside twice as less money for mass deliveries. This statement was made in an interview to Radio Moscow by the first deputy head of the Armaments Department of the Defense Ministry, Lieutenant General Anatoliy (?Funtikov). Speaking about the situation in this sphere the general said: While armaments are being reduced, arms expenditures are also being reduced. Over the past three years expenditures for arms production have been reduced by 27 percent. While five years ago enough money was set aside to keep defense enterprises busy, today we set aside several dozen percent less money for some enterprises and subsidies for certain enterprises are reduced by 70-80 percent.

The production of tanks, warplanes, helicopters, and artillery pieces was repeatedly reduced. About 50 percent of the defense enterprises reorient sharply their production. Conversion in this country, says the Soviet military specialist, is at such a stage today when the dividends are far away while considerable state subsidies are needed now. We try to find a way out at various levels, even apply to our leadership. For example, the Russian Federation's President Boris Yeltsin at his recent meeting with the military command, proposed to delay for a while with the conversion of some military enterprises and export the technology they produce. As it became known the United States, say, is interested in the Soviet planes MiG-29. According to some experts each such plane is worth $23 million or $25 million and the attraction of Western experience, know how, and capital through joint ventures is also a possibility. We already cooperate in this sphere with France and Germany. It is planned that by the year 1995 there shall be consumer goods at the defense enterprises should reach 65 percent.

'Disinformation' on Economic Reform Plans Hit

PM1912095191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Dec 91 Union Edition p 2

[I. Demchenko report under the "Events and Commentaries" rubric: "False Information Distributed on Russian Government Plans. Inquiry Under Way"]

[Text] At long last, the Russian Government's "secret" program for introducing the non-cash ruble has reached Moscow. The government itself is of the opinion that never in the period since it set to work has disinformation spread so far and with such fantastic speed around the republic.

The six-page text (there are shorter versions), which is devoid of any kind of prerequisites, expounds a fairly well-balanced and wholly practicable idea for strictly limiting the monetary mass for cash as well as non-cash circulation. It lists directly enforceable legislative acts which need to be adopted in order to launch the Russian version of financial reform, and which are wholly comparable in their austerity to the famous Erhardt Reform. According to the official announcement made for IZVESTIYA by fully authorized officials, this plan actually has nothing to do with government circles: It was never examined by the Russian Government, even as a working document, and it is completely at odds with the idea behind the reforms under way.

The "document" appeared for the first time about a month ago, and was distributed throughout the territory of the whole republic in record time. One distinguishing feature is that it was distributed through official bodies—mainly banks—and other financial organs. In a

number of regions of Russia—St. Petersburg, for example—the version about transferring to non-cash transactions and freezing accounts prompted genuine panic among economic leaders and the population, and it had serious consequences. In the light of this, Vice Premier Ye. Gaydar ordered an official inquiry, calling on the services not just of economic experts but also of staff from the Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the RSFSR Federal Security Agency.

According to group leader K. Babadzhanyanets, there are no grounds for complaint against the text's author. The text was composed by a professional, competent economist who obviously works in the sphere in question. No information was uncovered in the course of the inquiry to indicate the author's personal involvement in propagating this document. The group conducting the inquiry believes that this is a case of the still-unnamed specialist's work being used by certain circles—mainly financial circles—for mercenary ends. By inventing the idea of secret plans by the Russian Government which provide in particular for the closure of all existing accounts belonging to enterprises, several commercial banks roused their clients to convert their assets from these accounts into company capital. This is merely one of the numerous consequences of the document's appearance which, as K. Babadzhanyanets puts it, prevents us from simply "halting" the matter. The group firmly intends to complete the inquiry and to establish exactly who was involved and in whose interests this disinformation, which compromises the government's idea for reform, was spread. They promise to inform us of the official conclusions.

Strictly speaking, the introduction of the "non-cash ruble" is not the first and, clearly, not the last falsification of the Russian leadership's intentions, and there is nothing mysterious about its appearance and extensive distribution. Having instigated reform, the government simply did not consider it possible to familiarize society with such a detailed action program. Moreover, officials constantly stress that there is no need to do so, because society is allegedly "sick of programs." The brief, 20-30 page documents which are demonstrated from time to time in strict confidence in close government circles are in fact more in the nature of working drafts. Meanwhile, even the layman understands that it is simply impossible to carry out a reform of such stature without preliminary projections and a clearly defined range of measures which are coordinated with regard to deadlines. This is graphically illustrated by the numerous miscalculations and glaring blunders in the first package of economic decrees, the constant need to postpone deadlines for instigating one or other reform measure, and the declarations by government members such as: "We are trying to keep control, but it will not be easy," or "It is impossible to coordinate the questions of privatization and price liberalization."

Russia is entering the New Year without economic coordinates or a state budget; with paralyzed economic links and a ruined financial system; without reserves; and, moreover, with a vague reform strategy and tactics. It is difficult to imagine a more fertile soil for rumors, conjecture, and falsification.

Party of Free Labor Registers in Moscow

LD2012125691 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 18 Dec 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian Party of Free Labor [Rossiskaya Partiya Svobodnogo Truda] has been registered today. Seventy percent of this party is made up of entrepeneurs and businessmen. The leaders compare this party with...

[Begin I. Koroviko recording] In its way it is close either to the Conservative Party of Great Britain or to the Republican Party of the United States of America. [end recording]

Clearly, this idea appealed so much to Valeriy German, the chairman of the party, that he left on a fact-finding tour to the United States without even taking part in his party's registration.

It is also clear that in the best bourgeois traditions of flirting with the working people, miners from Vorkuta who had come to Moscow to tell the government about their troubles were invited to the registration. But, the leaders of the Russian Party of Free Labor had not paid attention to the fact that representatives of the working class do not share the same position as entrepeneurs and businessmen.

International Affairs

Yeltsin Appoints Silayev as EC Representative

LD2012141191 Berlin ADN in German 1355 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow (ADN)—INTERFAX has reported that Russian President Boris Yeltsin appointed Ivan Silayev by decree as Russia's permanent representative to the EC in Brussels today.

Silayev was until now the head of the Interrepublican Economic Committee of the former Soviet Union. He previously headed the Russian Government.

Yeltsin NATO Membership Appeal Circulated

LD2012140491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1340 GMT 20 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Shashkov]

[Text] Brussels, 20 Dec (TASS)—An appeal from RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin was circulated today at the first session of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in progress here, attended by the foreign ministers of the countries of NATO and of Central and Eastern Europe and by those of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. On

behalf of the Russian leadership, it expresses confidence that the work of this new institution of international cooperation will promote the creation of an atmosphere of mutual understanding and trust and the strengthening of stability and security on the European continent.

We approach relations with the North Atlantic alliance seriously and should like to develop our dialogue and contacts with it in all ways, at both the political and the military level, the appeal says. Today we are raising the issue of Russia joining NATO, although we are prepared to view this as a long-term political goal.

Further on Statement

AU2012115091 Paris AFP in English 1123 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] Brussels, Dec 20 (AFP)—Russia wants to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), Russian President Boris Yeltsin said in a statement read on his behalf here Friday.

The statement, read at a meeting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, said: "Today we are raising a question of Russia's membership in NATO, however regarding it as a longterm political aim."

Yeltsin also pledged guarantees from Russia and other republics from the former Soviet Union to honour treaties and agreements signed by the Soviet Union.

"Special attention will be paid to ensuring single control over nuclear armaments and their non-proliferation," he said, addressing a major NATO security concern.

The council brought together, for the first time, foreign ministers from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and nine countries of eastern Europe including the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union was represented by the Soviet ambassador to NATO and Belgium, Nikolay Afanasyevskiy, who was speaking with the agreement of the various Soviet republics.

Reading Yeltsin's declaration, he said that Russia welcomed NATO decisions taken at a leadership summit in Rome last month aimed at creating "a new system of security from Vancouver to Vladivostok."

Yeltsin said: "Russia and other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, now undergoing the process of formation, intend to pursue a policy of strengthening international peace and security."

He said they intended to help build a "reliable system of collective security" involving Europe and North America.

The statement said: "Today it is important to rapidly overcome the heritage of confrontation, to take resolute measures for reciprocal cuts in military potentials, and at the same time foster mutual understanding and predictability."

Yeltsin said that the profound changes underway in the former Soviet Union opened up "unprecedented opportunities for productive cooperation between Russia and the international community."

Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez told reporters that the NATO ministers did not comment on the Yeltsin letter during their session with the Eastern European countries on Friday.

He noted the importance of Yeltsin's assurances on "single control" of nuclear weapons in the ex-Soviet Union, and on their non-proliferation.

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said the Soviet ambassador had told NATO that any commitments taken on Friday would be respected by the sovereign states that replaced the Soviet Union.

Danish Prime Minister Remarks on UN Role

LD1712204991 Moscow TASS in English 1609 GMT 17 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Sidorov]

[Text] Copenhagen December 17 (TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin's suggestion, that Russia has to become a full-right member of the national Security Council instead of the former Soviet Union should be satisfied, said Poul Schluter, Danish premier minister today at the meeting of the ministers cabinet.

According to an announcement by the Danish informational agency RITZAUS bureau, a head of the government confirmed the attitude to the recognition of Russia's independence and other republics, after consultations with the countries of the European Community.

Russia To Replace USSR in Estonian Talks

LD1812200791 Moscow TASS in English 1913 GMT 18 Dec 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow December 18 TASS—Estonia and Russia today began talks on trade and economic cooperation between the two independent states. As a result, Estonia is expected to send food supplies to Russia on the basis of mutually beneficial trade, Russian state counsellor Aleksandr Granberg told a news conference here today.

According to Granberg, the Russian parliament plans to consider the ratification of a treaty on the fundamentals of state relations between Russia and Estonia.

Russian representatives are going to replace the former Soviet Union delegations in negotiations with the Baltic states. Delegation leaders will be chosen proceeding from their competence and not from their current official rank.

Foreign Experts Support Republic Reforms

OW1912085091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2051 GMT 18 Dec 91

[From the 18 December "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of international experts, including such prominent economists as Marek Dombrosky (Poland), Jeffrey Sachs (USA) and Sergio de la Quandra (Chile), have had consultations with the Russian government while on a visit to Moscow. In a statement expressing their support for reform in Russia the experts voiced the opinion that the resolute implementation of such reforms could make it possible in 1992 to do away with commodity deficits and curb inflation. The experts proposed a number of priority measures along the main lines of the reform:

MACROECONOMIC STABILIZATION

— the balancing of the budget including a sharp reduction in subsidies to support fixed price, a cutback in budget expenditure and the introduction of tax reforms;

— the restriction of preferential credits by the Central Bank;

— a complete end to credits provided by the Central Bank for meeting budget deficits.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A MARKET ECONOMY

— an end to price control;

— doing away with obligatory state orders;

— removing most of the restrictions on international trade including quotas, licensing and prohibitive tariffs;

— doing away with the compulsory sale to the state of a percentage of hard currency export earnings at lower than market rates.

PRIVATIZATION

— the privatization of all shops and other trade enterprises, all enterprises with staffs of less than 500 persons, all agricultural enterprises, all enterprises involved in the transportation and storage of foodstuffs and all enterprises in the processing industries within the course of one year;

— the immediate transformation of all large-scale (having staffs of more than 500 persons) industrial enterprises into joint stock companies.

SOCIAL INSURANCE

— the introduction of special cash payments to pensioners, the unemployed, etc.;

— the undertaking of public works (roadbuilding, repairs etc) with minimum payment for the unemployed.

Further on Polish Vice Premier Gaydar's Visit

PM2012125591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Dec 91 Union Edition p 2

[M. Berger report: "How Many Governments Will the Reform Take"]

[Text] The brief visit to Moscow by Polish Vice Premier Leszek Balcerowicz, the well-known reformer and finance minister, ended with a news conference in which the Polish guest's Russian counterpart Yegor Gaydar also took part.

During the visit they discussed problems of trade, deliveries, debt payments, and direct ties between the two states' enterprises. But an "exchange of experience" of shock therapy, which can be borrowed from Poland in vast quantities on an "interest-free" basis, occupied as much time. This subject was of such interest to President Yeltsin and caused him to ask the Polish finance minister so many questions, that journalists had to wait in the press center for 40 minutes or so to ask their questions.

Any first postcommunist government finds itself in a very difficult position. The heightened expectations of a society that wants to immediately savor the material fruits of its release from totalitarianism render the policy of tough economic measures to financially stabilize and normalize the economy extremely vulnerable in the eyes of public opinion. In that situation not all Cabinets succeed in surviving the reforms they begin.

How many governments will it take to implement reform in Russia? What can be said about that, based on Polish experience of shock therapy. This question from IZVESTIYA inspired Leszek Balcerowicz to give a fairly lengthy answer. Every program for escaping from a totalitarian economy, he said, has two phases. The first is to stabilize the market, remove shortages, and slow down inflation. In the same period the purchasing power of the national currency, including its current convertibility, is restored. This can all be achieved even without a privatized economy with a considerable amount of state ownership and even with such inevitable problems as declining production, price hikes, and the substitution of overt for covert unemployment. The main step at this time is to liberalize prices, without which, Balcerowicz reckons, there is no point in thinking about the success of the reform.

The first stage takes roughly a year and in Poland one government has managed to implement it. The change of cabinet, in Balcerowicz's opinion, was brought about by the political calendar and was not the result of the train of events in the economy. Reform and reformers in

general, the Polish vice premier noted, are very dependent on the political calendar, on election dates, and other noneconomic factors.

But the most complex period sets in during the second stage which has to modify the economy itself. A competitive market and more or less complete [osushchestvlennyy] privatization are required to reinforce money and ensure its stability and this takes years and years. The danger is that the success of the first stage—the rapid filling of the stores after prices are freed and the drastic fall in inflation—gears people up for equally rapid progress. How many governments will it take for this to occur? That depends on the cabinet itself and its ability to carry out its plans, but also on the political calendar too, of course. I think that Russia's incumbent government is surviving the reform it has begun. To some extent it is even easier for it than it was for the Polish Government in the past since the influence of the trade unions here is not as great, unlike the influence of enterprises' administration, which is still strong. And strong trade unions with a weak economy constitute an extremely dangerous alignment.

Answering questions put to him, Yegor Gaydar said that Boris Yeltsin, despite some criticism, remains true to the decisions that he has adopted and, in particular, to the decision to head the government. The Russian vice premier also spoke of the package of documents on foreign economic regulation that the government has considered. The crux of the matter is that enterprises in processing sectors are gaining virtually total freedom of action: They are being relieved of export tax and can dispose of all the hard currency that they earn as they see fit.

Leszek Balcerowicz' well-known expression concerning the difficulties of the transitional period was recalled at the press conference. He said that turning a free economy into a totalitarian economy is like turning an aquarium of goldfish into fish soup. An ignoble task, but quite feasible. Turning away from economic totalitarianism to the market is no easier than turning fish soup into an aquarium of goldfish.

Well, let us return to our own fish soup and try to extract the goldfish from it.

Yeltsin Visits Italy, Meets With Leaders

LD2012112891 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] Boris Yeltsin ends his visit to Italy today. Our special correspondent Oleg Klimov reports:

According to local observers, the visit is going well. Boris Yeltsin achieved the goal he had set for himself: Although Italy has not yet officially recognized Russia, the RSFSR president was without any doubt received in Rome as the head of the sovereign, independent state. This is confirmed by the level at which the talks are being conducted, by the Russian flag above the Italian president's residence, and the unexpected bestowing upon Boris Yeltsin of the highest Italian award, which is usually given to the leaders of friendly countries.

Let us remember that in the first day of his visit, the RSFSR president discussed the establishment of direct links between the two countries with the president and the prime minister of Italy, met the foreign affairs minister, and talked with the parliamentary leaders of this state. On the same day several joint documents were signed. It now seems that the question of official recognition of Russia by Italy will be resolved in the very near future.

Yeltsin's program for today includes meetings with some of the most important representatives of the business circles of this country, in particular with Mr.(Nabili), president of IRI, one of the largest governmental industrial-financial associations, and with Mr. Agnielli, president of Fiat. Later he will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, meet with the mayor of Rome, and give a speech to representatives of business circles. In the second half of the day Boris Yeltsin will visit the Vatican to meet Pope John Paul II.

Further on Meetings

LD1912234591 Moscow TASS in English 2040 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Rome December 19 TASS—Russo-Italian documents were signed at the government residence here today.

A joint declaration on the principles of relations between Italy and the Russian Federation has it that the sides intend to base their relations on international law and on the observance of the principles of sovereignty and equality. They agreed to apply agreements concluded between Italy and the Soviet Union with due regard for current changes in the interests of Italian-Russian relations.

The two sides also adopted a declaration on cooperation in defence industry conversion. They agreed to continue efforts in this respect. With this end in view they decided to set up a special working group. Other joint documents, including the one on cultural cooperation, were also signed.

Boris Yeltsin held talks with Giulio Andreotti today and also met Leonilde Jotti, president of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian parliament, and Giovanni Spadolini, president of the Senate.

In conclusion of the first busy day of Yeltsin's visit, an official dinner was given on behalf of Spadolini in honour of the president of Russia. There was an exchange of speeches at the dinner.

Foreign Ministers Hold Talks

LD1912234491 Moscow TASS in English 2039 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Rome December 19 TASS—Problems of Russia's diplomatic recognition, its entry to the United Nations

and joining in the European process were discussed by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis on Thursday [19 December].

De Michelis summed up the preliminary results of the negotiations at a briefing later. He said Italy recognises new circumstances emerging in the Soviet Union. "We have taken into account the information supplied by the Russian delegation, and we shall proceed from developments seen in the light of the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States," De Michelis said.

He expressed the hope that this process would be developing peacefully in the spirit of a political and diplomatic dialogue. As to Russia's official recognition, De Michelis said it will be decided jointly with other countries of the Economic Community depending on further developments. De Michelis said he believed the problem would be resolved in the next few days on the basis of principles for the recognition of new states adopted by the Economic Community.

De Michelis said the question of joining in future the CSCE process, the Helsinki Act and the Paris Charter for a new Europe by those former Soviet republics that are not European remains unresolved. Italy proceeds from the view that these agreements and processes formed under a political principle, not geographic one, and, consequently, all the new states ready to sign the Helsinki Accords and the Parisian Charter can actively join the European process.

De Michelis said Rome supports radical economic reforms carried out by Russia and other republics. He declared for Russia's full- scale participation in the International Monetary Fund and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

De Michelis said Italy favours the continuation and development of the ties it had with the USSR and its republics, and which could be described as good. This should not be discounted. "State structures change, nations remain," De Michelis said.

The Italian foreign minister confirmed Italy's decision urgently to grant credits to Russia. He said Italy deems it necessary to review all the agreements that had earlier been concluded with the USSR so that Russia could decide which agreements it would undertake to observe. This also applies to financial agreements. Italy is expected to conclude with Russia new agreements similar to those it had with the Soviet Union.

De Michelis emphasised the importance of Boris Yeltsin's current visit to Italy. He said it coincided with an extremely important period for the Soviet Union. It follows the Minsk agreements and precedes the Alma-Ata meeting decisive for the destiny of the Commonwealth of Independent States. "So Italians were the first in the West to learn details of current process and stress their constructive, positive attitude to these processes," De Michelis said.

Interviewed by TASS after negotiations De Michelis said the Italian Government regards Russia as the successor to the disintegrating Soviet Union.

Yeltsin Receives Award

LD1912175791 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1630 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Boris Yeltsin, who started an official visit to Italy today, has held talks with Italian leaders. After the completion of the talks, a ceremony took place to award the Russian president with the highest state order of the Italian Republic—the Cavaliere Di Gran Croce Order. It is awarded to prominent state and political figures who have made a considerable contribution to the democratic transformation of society.

The award was presented by Italian President Francesco Cossiga. Having thanked the Italian head of state for such a high award, Boris Yeltsin said that it was a surprise for him in many respects. I understand, Boris Nikolayevich said, that this is a gift to the great people of Russia, to the peoples of the whole Russia, especially for the fact that they, together with the inhabitants of Moscow and the leadership of the Russian Federation, saved freedom during the 19 August coup this year. This is a very good sign.

Boris Yeltsin stressed that the relations between Italy and Russia will not only be restored within the framework for which an agreement was previously reached, but they will be considerably moved forward in all respects.

Joint Declaration on Relations

LD1912231891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1910 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] [No dateline as received] A Declaration on fundamentals of relations between Italy and Russia.

Joint Declaration on the fundamentals of relations between the Italian Republic and the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic

1. The Italian Republic and the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic, relying on an old tradition of contacts between their peoples, intend to develop close relations of friendship and cooperation, establishing with this aim a permanent, intensive, and mutually beneficial dialogue. They are confident that strengthening bilateral Italian-Russian relations also will help deepen all- European cooperation and strengthen security and peace on the continent.

Italy and the Russian Federation feel satisfaction in connection with the political, economic, and social changes which have occurred in Europe recently, and regard them as an important contribution to stability on the continent. They acknowledge the role which the EEC, NATO, and the European Council are called upon to play in determining the new structure of Europe.

Italy and the Russian Federation attribute great importance to the rigorous observation of the principles of the UN Charter, the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter for the new Europe, and other documents of the CSCE.

They consider that the overall aim of their cooperation should be the construction of a new Europe based on respect for human rights and the rights of ethnic minorities; on the values of freedom, democracy, and pluralism; on open societies; on economic and social well-being; and on the renunciation of the use or threat of force. Italy and the Russian Federation also are convinced that every people is the master of its own fate and has the right to choose freely its sociopolitical structure, its own development, and the reforms which are, in its opinion, most expedient.

Both sides will base their relations on international law, observance of the principles of sovereignty, equality, mutual respect, and mutual understanding. Italy and the Russian Federation intend to develop their relations in various spheres and agree to employ the agreements concluded between Italy and the USSR, in view of the changes occurring, in the interests of Italian-Russian relations.

2. Both sides are convinced that a basic element of the new system of European security is the process of disarmament and arms control in the sphere of conventional armaments and nuclear, chemical, bacteriological, and other types of weapons of mass destruction. They consider that the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe is of fundamental significance for strengthening stability and security on the European Continent, and that it constitutes a reliable basis for progress toward lower levels of forces and armaments. In this respect, both sides adhere to the need for the speediest ratification of the treaty and the swift completion, by the beginning of the CSCE meeting in Helsinki in 1992, of the Conventional Armed Forces 1-A negotiations on limiting and reducing the numbers of conventional armed forces, which already are underway in Vienna.

They also are convinced that immediately after the Helsinki CSCE meeting, new talks should begin with the participation of all the participant states on further measures on conventional weapons, on stabilization, and on strengthening openness and trust. A common dialogue also should begin on all questions of universal security and of making full use of means for preventing conflicts within the framework of the new world order and cooperation.

Both sides firmly support strengthening the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and measures aimed at preventing the spread of all types of weapons of mass destruction. They also come out for expanding openness and for effective limitations in the sphere of transferring weaponry.

3. Italy and the Russian Federation adhere to the opinion that the new way of measuring security should be based not only on military balance and arms control, but also on the broader coincidence of political views and common interests for the sake of strengthening democracy and freedom.

Both sides consider that from the viewpoint of reaching these goals, the CSCE process has brought significant results which have served to improve international relations as a whole. Italy and the Russian Federation intend to observe fully the obligations stemming from the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter for a New Europe, as well as all CSCE documents, and consider that the institutionalization of the CSCE should be broadened and continued. They acknowledge that carrying out in full the obligations undertaken in the sphere of politics, security, and economics, and in the humanitarian sphere enhances stability on the continent and helps to restore the unity of Europe's spiritual and cultural identity.

4. Each of the sides attaches special importance to the development of economic cooperation in their common interests. By means of such cooperation, Italy is ready to make a specific contribution to developing the market economy in Russia in all spheres. For this purpose, all forms of cooperation will be encouraged, with the development and promotion of the intensive contacts already established between the relevant enterprises and organizations. Every effort also will be made at the legislative level to create more favorable juridical and economic conditions in order to strengthen and develop these contacts in line with the principles of market economics.

Both sides stress the usefulness of the initiative by Italian enterprises with regard to establishing an Italian economic center in Russia and the proposal to open a Russian-Italian trade house in Italy, put forward by Russian entrepreneurs, and to adopt an obligation to support these projects. Italy and the Russian Federation recognize that economic bilateral cooperation should concentrate on strategically important first priority spheres, such as: industry, energy supply; the military industry conversion; internal and external connections and telecommunications; the production, treatment, preservation, and distribution of agricultural products; scientific and technical cooperation; space exploration; and cooperation in the environmental sphere, including the security of nuclear installations.

Both sides will hold regular consultations to clarify and define new priority directions in cooperation. Italy and the Russian Federation will exchange information on the talks they held on most important projects, which are the basis for developing economic cooperation. The two sides will try to find additional possibilities connected with elaborating major self-financing projects. Improving guarantees provided by the Russian legislation in this sphere aimed at mobilizing these additional financial resources could assist in implementing self-financing projects.

Both sides stress the importance of cooperation at the level of entrepreneurial structures, and note the great

importance for the introduction of a market economy in Russia, and of Italian experience in the sphere of small and medium-sized enterprises, and also farmers' holdings. The Italian side is prepared to provide consultation and technical aid in the sphere of organization and management, vocational training, and also entrepreneurial and credit activity.

5. Italy confirms its readiness to continue to participate in a specific and large-scale manner in providing financial support for the reforms in the Russian Federation within the framework of the actions being carried out by the Group of Seven most industrially developed countries and by the European Community.

To this end, both sides confirm the importance of the immediate and total implementation of the memorandum of 28 October 1991, and the Communique of 21 November 1991, agreed with representatives of the Seven.

Each side confirms its readiness to fulfill the global commitments contained in these documents.

6. The Russian Federation dislays readiness for the all-round expansion of cooperation with the existing European institutions, in particular with the European Community. Both sides stress their interest in promoting this sphere with the aim of ensuring greater stability in the European region and the development of the countries within it.

Both sides agree that an important contribution to the stabilization of the contemporary international situation and to economic development could be made by regional and subregional cooperation in Europe.

In this respect both sides believe that the existing contribution to the development of their relations in all spheres must be ensured through improving their ties in the spheres of transport (railway, air, sea, and road), telecommunications, and the transferance of energy. This cooperation, which requires participation on both sides and which will strengthen relations with other countries of the region, will develop in the framework of European institutions, the European energy charter, and the Danube-Adriatic initiative, with a view to elaborating jointly infrastructural projects necessary for better mutual integration. Both sides wish to state their desire to develop cultural cooperation in various spheres, including education, science, and the preservation of cultural heritage. With these aims in mind, they have pledged to promote the activities of the other side's official cultural establishments operating on its territry. The two sides are coordinating their joint initiatives to introduce studies of the Italian language in the Russian Federation, and of the Russian language in Italy, in particular to promote the attainment of accords by the "A.S. Pushkin" Institute of the Russian Language in Moscow and Italian educational establishments.

Both sides will encourage any forms of cooperation between universities, other higher educational institutions, and scientific organizations by exchanging scholars, lecturers, and grant-aided students.

Conservation, restoration, and mutual acquaintance with cultural inheritance will represent a priority sphere in cooperation. Both sides, in case of appeal, will provide mutual assistance in returning cultural and historical values which were exported illegally or stolen by the other side.

Italy and the Russian Federation will assist in developing exchanges in cultural and other spheres among young people.

8. Both sides regard drug addiction, organized crime, and terrorism as evils which do not recognize national borders. These evils can be combated only by global cooperation in their prevention and cutting them short by creating, as far as possible, uniform legal areas.

9. Both sides will hold consultations on the issues of bilateral and multilateral relations, as well as on international problems of mutual interest. Regular contacts will be maintained between the Foreign Affairs Ministries of both states. Italy and the Russian Federation will cooperate within international organizations of which they already are or will become members. Italy and the Russian Federation will pay particular attention to developing interparliamentary ties. They also will promote direct contacts between their citizens, the process of twinning, and developing ties between regions and towns of both sides.

10. The sides accept an obligation to provide an adequate care for burial places and monuments to Italian citizens in the Russian Federation and to Russian citizens in Italy, and to provide unimpeded access to them in accordance with their legislative systems.

The sides also will cooperate in tackling other humanitarian matters connected with the search for the remains of Italian and Russian citizens located on the other side's territory and their return to their homeland.

11. The sides reached agreement on regulating in practice matters relating to diplomatic and consular relations.

12. Italy and the Russian Federation confirm that their cooperation in no way affects the obligations stemming from treaties and bilateral and multilateral agreements concluded by them previously. The present declaration is not directed against any third state.

13. Italy and the Russian Federation are convinced that the strengthening of their relations will make it possible jointly to reach new levels of peace and common development in the historical stage opening at the start of the century.

Concluded in the city of Rome on 19 December 1991 in two copies, each in the Italian and Russian languages, with both texts having identical validity.

(Signed) Giulio Andreotti
Boris Yeltsin

Declaration on Military Conversion

LD1912201191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1859 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] [No dateline as received] Russian-Italian declaration adopted on cooperation with regard to the conversion of the military industry.

Joint declaration of the Government of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic and the Government of the Italian Republic on cooperation in the sphere of the conversion of military industry

Conscious of the role which the conversion of the military industry can play both in the disarmament process and in the development of their economies, the Russian Federation and Italy consider this question to be an important part of their bilateral cooperation. Both parties note with satisfaction that Russian and Italian enterprises already have embarked upon joint work in the sphere of converting the military industry on the basis of the joint Soviet-Italian declaration of 30 November 1989.

Both sides confirm the high priority which this issue has acquired in connection with the economic reforms which are being implemented now in the Russian Federation. They have agreed to continue the efforts being undertaken within the framework of their bilateral relations in order to determine and to jointly implement specific and economically efficient projects that promote the use of new technologies. Both sides have agreed on setting up a special bilateral working group in which competent bodies of both governments will promote and coordinate cooperation in this sphere directly between relevant enterprises.

Concluded in the town of Rome in two copies on 19 December 1991, each in the Russian and Italian languages; both texts have equal validity.

[Signed] Andrey Kozyrev
[Signed] Gianni De Michelis

Vice President Rutskoy Visits Iran, Pakistan

Goals Previewed

NC2012093491 Moscow Radio Moscow in Persian to Iran 1430 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Yuriy Andreyev commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy today met and conferred with Iranian leaders in Tehran. Our analyst Yuriy Andreyev comments.

Yesterday, Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy started his six-day visit to the Middle East. As well as Iran, Rutskoy will visit Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Rutskoy has said that during this visit he intends carrying out two major duties: Holding talks on establishing direct relations between Russia and the Middle East; and continuing talks on the release of Soviet POW taken in Afghanistan.

The Russian vice president's visit to Tehran is an official response to Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to Moscow last month, when he officially invited the Russian leadership to continue bilateral talks in the Iranian capital. During that visit, a memorandum on economic and political cooperation was signed between Iran and Russia, both sides favoring further expansion of contacts.

Rutskoy's Middle East visit is not significant for this alone. Now that the Soviet Union has practically ceased to exist, new realities are emerging in international relations. A group of independent countries, with Russia participating, is one of these.

The Russian Federation, which has now declared its independence, is implementing an independent foreign policy, which means that former Soviet-Iranian relations belong in the past. Soon, Moscow and Tehran should alter their former pacts. Renovating bilateral cooperation is practically unavoidable.

Naturally, experiences gained in the field of Soviet-Iranian cooperation cannot be ignored. Russia and Iran are, as in the past, partners in traditional relations, political and economic, and they are bound not only by common interests but by several hundreds of years of history. The positive experiences amassed through bilateral contacts have been preserved and will undoubtedly be complemented.

Aleksandr Rutskoy's visit to Iran shows that Russia supports fruitful talks. Today, these are being carried out in new forms. For the first time in many years the Russian leadership is holding direct talks with the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, without central officials mediating.

Passes On Yeltsin Message

LD1912190191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1655 GMT 19 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondents Oleg Kuzmin and Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Tehran, 19 Dec (TASS)—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy passed on to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani a personal message from RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin. The message expressed Russia's desire to develop direct links with Iran in all spheres on a new interstate basis. It proposes that the two sides give special attention to the intensive development of trade, economic links, and cooperation in the area of the Caspian sea. B.N. Yeltsin also called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to actively cooperate with Russia in the political settlement of the situation in Afghanistan.

During today's meeting, A.A. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and A.V. Rutskoy discussed the state of Russian-Iranian relations and agreed that it is necessary to develop them by all means possible. At the same time, the Iranian side stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran understands the complexity of the period through which Russia has been going and regards the Russian Federation as a good partner for cooperation. We have all the preconditions for this. We are practically neighbors and border on the same sea, the Iranian president stressed.

During meeting the sides expressed their shared opinion on the need to actively involve all the concerned parties in settling the Afghan crisis. A.A. Hashemi-Rafsanjani confirmed his invitation to B.N. Yeltsin to visit Iran on an official visit.

Also today, A.V. Rutskoy held talks with Iranian Foreign MInister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The sides discussed the prospects for developing bilateral relations and ways to implement their intentions to expand them. As an option, it was proposed to form a special working commission with a view to preparing a comprehensive treaty, the signing of which will help transfer relations between Iran and Russia on to a qualitatively different level. That treaty, according to the sides' shared opinion, must determine the main principles for interaction between the two sides in the sphere of interstate relations, economy, trade, and science.

According to A.A. Velayati, Iran is presently awaiting the results of a meeting between the leaders of a number of former Union republics which begins in Alma-Ata on 21 December. After familiarizing itself with the results, Tehran will adopt a decision officially recognizing the republics and establishing diplomatic relations with them.

Concerning the activities of the Soviet Embassy in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the foreign minister observed that in Iran's view it is authorized to represent the interests of Russia.

Cooperation in the sphere of military technology was a subject of detailed discussion during A.V. Rutskoy's meeting with Akbar Torkan, Iran's minister of defense and armed forces logistics. In the opinion of one member of the Russian delegation, this sphere could be of considerable interest to both sides. By resolving in principle the tasks of effective cooperation in this sphere we might also make a substantial contribution toward solving our own social and economic problems, he remarked.

In an interview for the TASS correspondent at the end of the meeting, Iran's minister of defense and armed forces logistics said that his department, like Iran as a whole, regards Russia as a reliable and promising partner for cooperation in the sphere of military technology. Despite all the difficulties during recent months, A. Torkan emphasized, Russia has fulfilled all the agreements previously concluded. Lately, we have achieved considerable progress and hope that such a state of affairs will continue in the future too, the minister pointed out.

Negotiates for POW Releases

PM2012113591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Dec 91 Union Edition p 5

[V. Lashkul report: "A. Rutskoy in Iran"]

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, who is paying a visit to Tehran, has had talks with Iranian Vice President Ayatollah Mohajerani; Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the country's minister of economy and finance; and other Iranian statesmen. The talks focused on questions of Iranian-Russian cooperation.

Iran's IRNA notes that the Tehran leaders are proceeding on the basis of their realization of Russia's key significnce in the emergent Commonwealth of independent States. It is stressed that there are opportunities for multifaceted cooperation with Moscow and, in particular, for the development of trade contacts. At the same time, when assessing the possibility of Tehran's recognizing Russia as an independent state, Mohajerani said that the "rapid changes in the USSR have hitherto left Iran in no hurry to take concrete steps on this matter."

However, IRNA reported, Iran intends to open consulates in all the former Soviet Union's Central Asian republics and in Kazakhstan.

A. Rutskoy urged Iran's leaders to use their influence to settle the Afghan problem and also to secure the release of all Soviet prisoners of war held by "Islamic Unity of Afghanistan" gunmen.

Within the framework of his working visit to Tehran Aleksandr Rutskoy met with representatives of the Afghan opposition based in Iran. During a conversation with Muhammad Fayaz, one of the leaders of the "Islamic Unity of Afghanistan," the Russian vice president stressed that Moscow has carried out in full its previous commitments and is entitled to expect the release of a group of Soviet POWs by 1 January 1992. M. Fayaz avoided giving clear answers on this problem. Although AP reports that it did prove possible to reach agreement on exchanging 30 Afghan mujahidin in jail in Kabul for another Soviet prisoner. Further talks are to be held in Pakistan on this.

Rutskoy's 'Impatience' Noted

LD1912210591 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1600 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Report by A. Barkhatov; from the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, who is touring Middle East and South Asian countries, held talks with Iranian leaders today. A meeting with representatives of mojahedins, who are holding Soviet POWs, has also taken place.

[Begin recording] [Barkhatov] The Iranian side's hospitality and cordiality were emphasized by the fact that

Iranian President Rafsanjani received the Russian vice president at his residence today. They spoke about strengthening Iranian-Russian ties, which follows from the history itself of longstanding Russian-Persian relations, especially as closer cooperation is possible in new political conditions, including the creation of an economic market in the zone of the Caspian Sea, which is shared by our two countries. A meeting at the Afghan opposition headquarters in Tehran passed in quite a tense atmosphere, hence the start of a second stage of the talks cannot be described as successful.

[Rutskoy] The whole world and the whole world public is following this situation. That is, the UN and the Islamic direction, the whole world, all people are following our actions. And excuse me, but when such a great state as Russia and President Yeltsin are complying with all the clauses without exception whereas the opposite side is not showing any signs whatsoever in this direction, then, excuse me, pride and respect for one another must come into play here if we want to call ourselves men.

[Barkhatov] What specifically upsets you about Russian position today?

[M. Fayaz, Afghan opposition representative on Iranian territory] I would like to mention only one negative feature which I noticed in Mr. Rutskoy's behavior today. I have in mind his particular impatience and the fact that in his position understanding for his own problems prevails over understanding for the Afghan people's troubles; even if the Russian leadership understands these troubles, it has not so far attached much importance to them. [end recording]

Statement Signed; POW Release Secured

LD2012092191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0717 GMT 20 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondents Oleg Kuzmin and Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] The working visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran by Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy ended on 19 December with the signing of a joint Russian-Iranian statement and a degree of success in a new round of talks with the Afghan mojahedin based in Iran.

The statement, to which are appended the signatures of A.V. Rutskoy and 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, vice president of Iran, points out that "the sides confirmed the existence of a common mutual understanding of principle on matters of developing bilateral cooperation". Russia and Iran expressed their interest in maintaining "cordial, good-neighborly" relations and in strengthening links in the political, economic, and cultural spheres. The need for broader interaction in the international arena was noted, to include cooperation in creating a zone of peace and stability in the Middle East and the area of the Persian Gulf.

The document speaks of Russia's committment to all the agreements previously concluded between the USSR and Iran. It also expresses mutual interest in opening an Islamic Republic of Iran consulate in St. Petersburg.

That part of the statement which refers to Afghanistan points out that "constructive cooperation between all sides involved in the Afghan problem is obligatory for settlement of the issue". Russia and Iran spoke in favor of continuing their efforts to comply with the provisions of the UN secretary general's statement on Afghanistan. The sides expressed their complete satisfaction at the results of the recent Moscow talks between a delegation of Afghan mojahedin and the Russian leadership. They welcomed the Soviet-American agreement to stop arms supplies to Afghanistan.

Russia asked Iran to use its influence with the Afghan mojahedin to free the Soviet POW's. In answer to this request, Iran said that "proceding from the principles of Islamic morality and humanism, it will provide efficient assistance in this matter". In turn, Tehran called on Russia to help "free the Afghan prisoners", something that was positively received.

At Tehran Airport on 19 December, there was a second, unscheduled meeting between A.V. Rutskoy and the leaders of the "Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan [IUP]." The first meeting, which was held on 18 December, effectively ended in failure since the mojahedin refused to release the Soviet POW's in their hands until "the Najibullah regime in Kabul is eliminated." The Russian vice president was overemotional in his response to what was said by the leaders of the IUP and, it appears, the understanding reached with this group in Moscow was ruined. The following day, however, IUP representatives, including Mohamad Fayaz, a member of the IUP leadership, turned up at the airport. At the end of the conversation, which lasted more than an hour, A.V. Rutskoy made a short statement in which he stressed that this time, a degree of progress was reached in the talks. The mojahedin expressed their readiness to free two of the POW's they hold, a citizen of Lithuania and one of Azerbaijan, in exchange for a group of Afghan opposition members currently held in Kabul jails. RSFSR Vice President Rutskoy suggested that the two prisoners be freed without preliminary conditions as a goodwill gesture to the two newly independent states on the part of the mojahedin.

On 19 December, the Russian vice president and members of his accompanying delegation left Tehran for Lahore.

Arrives in Pakistan

PM2012132991 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Dec 91 First Edition p 3

[TASS correspondents Vladislav Legantsov and Nikolay Semenenko report: "With Hope and Understanding"]

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, who is touring the Middle East and South Asia, arrived in Pakistan yesterday evening. He begins by visiting Lahore, administrative center of Punjab Province, where he will have talks with Pakistani Government head Nawaz Sharif. The stop in Lahore is just the first stage in a packed program for the Russian vice president.

Pakistan attaches great importance to the upcoming visit, believing that it will contribute to a fundamental improvement in mutual understanding between the sides.

The stumbling block in relations between Pakistan and the former Soviet Union was the unresolved nature of the Afghan problem, in which both sides are directly involved. There have been some promising developments here of late. The recent Moscow meeting between the leaders of the mujahidin and the Russian leaders give grounds for hope that the solution of the protracted crisis could be considerably accelerated. In this connection, great hopes are pinned on the upcoming Pakistani-Russian talks. The Pakistani press is of the opinion that during his visit the Russian vice president will make a vigorous effort to obtain the release of former Soviet servicemen.

Supreme Soviet's Lukin Remarks on PRC Visit

LD1912094891 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1010 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] A delegation of the Russian parliament has just returned to Moscow from Beijing. It stayed in China at the invitation of the National People's Congress. Our reporter Konstantin Garibov has interviewed the head of the delegation, Vladimir Lukin, the chairman of the Russian parliament's committee for international affairs and foreign economic relations. Here's how he describes the stay of the delegation in China.

[Begin Lukin recording, in Russian fading to announcer's report in English] That was the Russian parliamentary delegation's first visit to China, Vladimir Lukin said. It was made at a difficult time for Russia living presently through very complicated processes; they are being closely watched in China of course. Naturally each of the sides wants to know how all this is going to influence the development of relations between them. That is why the aim of this visit was to assure the Chinese side that Russia has no intention to look upon its relations with China as something short-lived and based on certain considerations of the moment.

It intends to accurately pursue the policy line worked out during the summit meeting in Beijing and Moscow and during the recently begun rapprochement between the two countries. We intend to adhere, Vladimir Lukin went on to say, to the letter and spirits of the two joint Sino-Soviet communiques and to develop their ideas and advance forward without slowing down our pace.

True, we'll run into great difficulties on this road. Our economy and our contacts inside the country are changing, so the main theme of the discussions in Beijing was the need to promote the development of new Sino-Soviet economic structures.

In the political respect the visit was a success. We handed Wu Xueqian a message from Russia's President Boris Yeltsin and to Wan Li from Ruslan Khasbulatov. Khasbulatov's message contains practical proposals for developing interparliamentary contacts.

We've invited a delegation of the National People's Congress to visit Russia, Vladimir Lukin said. The invitation was accepted in principle and a visit is likely to take place early next summer. As far as the main outcome of our visit is concerned, Vladimir Lukin went on to say, we've managed to get across the clear-cut message to the Chinese side—Russia intends to develop relations with China on a steady and de-ideologized basis.

When asked to tell about the reaction of the Chinese side to the process taking place in this country, Vladimir Lukin said the following: The Chinese side displays a cautious reaction. Russia and China are neighbors. All that happens in this country has its impact on the developments in China and the other way round. Hence our discussion of how events here may influence events in China first and foremost and, secondly, what impact they may have on Soviet-Chinese relations, Vladimir Lukin said. We've noticed at the same time that the Chinese side is sympathetic with us yet it is apprehensive for the possible development of uncontrolled processes in this country. These apprehensions are all the more legitimate since this country is a big nuclear power. The changes in it alter radically the situation in the world and in Asia and Pacific region in particular.

If one of the two superpowers quits the game, the other remains without rivals and this changes the situation many ways. Beijing, however, seems not to think that these changes of the situation is in its favor [as heard].

The apprehensions are legitimate. Our aim, Vladimir Lukin said, was not to take offense but to show to China that we realize these problems and we'll do our best to return the political situation in this country back to normal and thus guarantee a stable development of Sino-Soviet relations, Vladimir Lukin, an MP [member of parliament] of the Russian Federation, said in conclusion.

Lukin Interviewed

OW1912014791 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1100 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Interview with Lukin, chairman of the RSFSR Joint Commission for International and Foreign Economic Affairs, by station reporter Glebov; from the "Along the Road of Friendship and Cooperation" program]

[Text] The delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR returned to Moscow from Beijing on 13 December after visiting China at the invitation of the its National People's Congress [NPC]. Glebov, a reporter of this station, recently interviewed Lukin, chairman of the Joint Commission for International and Foreign Economic Affairs of the RSFSR.

[Glebov] What do you think the major successes are that the delegation of the RSFSR parliament achieved in China?

[Lukin] When we talk about the major successes achieved in the visit, we must consider the fact that this is the RSFSR parliament's first visit to China, and that the visit was made at a time of utmost difficulties and complexities at home and when China was closely watching developments. Naturally, the two sides had to face the question, which is: How will they affect the relations between our two countries? Thus, the objective of the visit was to indicate clearly to Chinese authorities and Chinese leaders that we do not plan to develop relations with China based on expediencies, but that we plan to firmly implement the two countries' policy of rapprochment adopted after the high-level meetings in Beijing and Moscow, and that we will follow and carry forward the guidelines prescribed in the two Soviet-Chinese joint declarations and develop our relations in a constructive manner. Of course, there are enormous difficulties on our way. Our country's economic reform is going on, and its internal relations are also changing.

During the talks in Beijing, we focused on discussing issues concerning the establishment of a new Russian-Chinese economic structure. On the political side, our visit was very successful. Our schedule was fully accomplished. We handed over to Wu Xueqian a letter from President Yeltsin, and to Wan Li a letter from Khasbuilatov, which contains specific proposals for developing relations between the parliaments of the two countries. We also extended an invitation to the NPC, asking it to send a delegation to visit Russia. The invitation was accepted, in principle. The visit may take place in summer next year. We feel that we [words indistinct] stated clearly we will continue to develop relations with China on a nonideological basis. I feel we have reached an understanding in this regard.

[Glebov] Can you comment on Chinese authorities' response to our country's internal developments during the talks.

[Lukin] Naturally, the Chinese authorities were cautious. Since we are neighbors, events taking place in our two countries will naturally affect each other. It is very natural that problems will occur under such conditions. How will our affairs affect China and Sino-Soviet relations? We also discovered that they were sympathetic to us, and they sincerely hoped that we can become a country in which there is harmony between economic and political activities. We also felt that Chinese authorities were worried that developments in our country may go out of control. The expression of such a worry also stems from the fact that our country is a nuclear power. Their question is what sort of control and (?discipline) our country can exercise in the military sphere.

Another cause of their worry is the fact that the changes in our country are also rapidly changing the situation of the world and the Asia-Pacific region. This is because that if one of the two superpowers is no longer one, then another superpower would have no adversary, thus causing changes in many other areas. Thus, our Chinese comrades do not think there will be changes in their favor. All these worries are legitimate. Instead of complaining about this, we should indicate that we understand this problem and will try to stabilize our internal situation as quickly as possible so that Soviet-Chinese relations will be stable and strong.

There are interim expressions [lin shi yong yu] as well as everyday expressions in this world. Interim expressions always have some ideological hues, whereas China and Russia are everyday expressions. Our peoples are great peoples, and our civilizations are great civilizations. What will we leave behind to our children and grandchildren? What will our relations become? How are we going to surmount the difficulties and obstacles? The solution to these issues involved many factors. We should act cautiously and intelligently so that we can go through this period of complexities with accelerated speed. Only by doing this will we have a clear conscience before our children and grandchildren. This is something relevant to statesmen in China and Russia. My colleagues and I (?have fuli confidence) and we will do our best. I want to say to those whose heads are hot: Do not do certain things too hastily, and do not be overconfident that what you say today is the supreme truth. You should consider that we are not representatives of expediencies, but representatives of two great neighbors.

Border Posts To Be Set Up on Kuril Islands

LD2012103191 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1630 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Correspondent A. Barkhatov report: "A Business Trip to the Kurils"; from the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] It is difficult to count how many times this land was at war and how many times it prepared for war. Even today our video camera is not functioning well because there is a radar station nearby. But at last a decision on a 30 percent reduction of the army has been made. However, one cannot speak seriously about a general plan for demilitarizing the islands—which should be completed by the end of this year—as one can hardly regard the systematic destruction of tank turrets in the coastal zone as arms reduction. If an enemy finds itself in the center of such an island, his compass will, indeed, become useless because of the amount of buried

metal. As regards the radar equipment, which, as servicemen know makes birds lose their feathers, the proximity of villages does not embarrass army authorities. It is a great temptation, however, to believe that the reduction is taking place imperceptibly simply for the eyes of strangers, as it should be.

[Video shows Barkhatov interviewing servicemen; identified by caption]

[Begin recording] [S.Y. Chaban, serviceman] We are carrying out no instructions, orders, or preparation operations.

[Barkhatov] It seems that the border guards have responded to the new political situation more rapidly than the army. After all, new conditions of a free economic zone are in the offing. At the same time, according to information, the neighbors from Hokkaido give them enough work. This year there have been more than 4,500 cases of poaching in our waters. Chinese and even North Koreans are also among the culprits.

[M.A. Barybin, RSFSR People's Deputy, head of troops of the Red Banner Pacific Border District] We are going to legally open international checkpoints. Four have already been planned. We have submitted our proposals. I know they have been met with understanding in the center, in the Russian Government...

[Barkhatov, interrupts] In order to create a favorable climate...

[Barybin, continues] Yes, a favorable climate for development and in order to prove that the Kuril problem can be solved without transferring the islands, naturally, but through joint economic measures. I, in turn, would like to say that I am categorically opposed to reviewing any state borders, including the South Kuril area. [end recording] [Video shows radar stations on hills; troops handling equipment; Barkhatov interview]

Opposition to Handing Over Kuril Islands Noted

LD2012104991 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2200 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] The Presidium of South Sakhalin Oblast Soviet sent a commission to the Kurils to find out about the situation on the islands. Our correspondent in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Ivan Vorobyev, reports:

Because of transport difficulties, the commission failed to reach the South Kurils, only managing to visit Iturup Island. On its return, Colonel Milinskiy reported that most of the servicemen support the policy of the Russian Government and the oblast leadership. The servicemen are categorically against handing over or selling the islands to Japan, and they are ready to defend the islands. However, because of reductions in strength, they cannot even defend the positions of their own units. To solve their own problems and those of others, the servicemen propose the transfer to the islands of road transport units being withdrawn from Eastern Europe and the Baltics, and also that land used as test grounds be handed over to demobilized servicemen.

Dochur, a deputy of the oblast soviet, points out that the civilian population does not have such a clear-cut position. During the women's riot—as they call the unsanctioned rally in Kurilsk—the residents demanded the resignation of the local authorities who, it was claimed, engaged in commercial activity and forgot about the rights and needs of the islanders. On the islands—off which up to a million tons of fish is caught—one cannot find a fish tail or a can of fish. Members of the commission did not die of hunger only because they ate in the soldiers' canteens.

And the parting impression of the commission? Twice the Russian flag was torn from the building of the Soviet. The flag mast over Kurilsk is bare. What flag will be hoisted over it tomorrow?

Teachers of Reydovaya village school already agree to the transfer of the islands to Japan, and the longer such neglect for the residents of the Kurils continues the more there will be such people and such moods among them.

Regional Affairs

Mayor Popov Holds 'Farewell' News Conference

LD1912161691 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1452 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Gavriil Kharitonovich Popov today held his farewell news conference for Soviet and foreign journalists in his role as Moscow mayor. It was attended by our special correspondent, Vladimir Koroblev.

[Koroblev] It may be that this is not the last news conference and that we will come across Gavriil Kharitonovich Popov again while he is performing the duties of Moscow mayor. [passage omitted]

It started by our getting a fairly voluminous statement from the Moscow mayor in which he outlined his reasons for resigning. [passage omitted]

Gavriil Kharitonovich Popov went on to say:

[Begin Popov recording] I want to say just one thing: This statement is not something spontaneous arising from some kind of misunderstandings, clashes, or so on. The issue arose as such in November and was discussed several times at various levels, starting with President Yeltsin, and with public organizations. I would like to say that the most diverse efforts were made both on my part and on the part of others involved in the process to try to find a way out of the situation that had developed. However, we did not manage to find a way out that would satisfy me. This is a most difficult matter for me, but there are limits in every battle for one's ideals. However, once that limit has been passed, you know

immediately that nothing will come of it, that to continue fighting is fighting for the sake of fighting, rather than for one's ideals.

In my view, a crucial point has come in events. At this moment one still might say that I am being a bit hasty, compressing events. I do think that someone in the country has to do this, and that it should be someone well-known who does it. Therefore I have come to the conclusion that it is necessary to give up the powers of mayor, and I propose to do this at the end of the year. [end recording]

[Koroblev] [passage omitted] The journalists asked, in particular, who would succeed the mayor. They received the answer that in accordance with the law the duties of the mayor would be carried out by the deputy mayor, Yuriy Mikhaylovich Lushkov. [passage omitted]

I also asked Gavriil Kharitonovich Popov what he was going to do once he had left the post of mayor. Let us hear his answer:

[Begin Popov recording] I will be the editor in chief of the journal VOPROSI EKONOMIKI, just as I am at the moment. The only difference is that I will start to be paid. When the International University starts up and gets going, it is possible that I will work at the International University, too. That is from the point of view of salary and my work.

In the political sense, I have been elected a co-chairman of the Movement for Democratic Reforms at its constituting congress. I think I will be taking an active part in the work of this organization. [end recording]

[Koroblev] In conclusion, I would also like to say that a statement was distributed at the news conference from representatives of the Moscow organization of the Democratic Russia Movement. It says, in part, that the Council of Representatives of the Moscow organization of the Democratic Russia Movement considers that under these circumstances, the mayor's decision to resign is erroneous and unacceptable. Should the mayor's powers not be used to implement reforms, the statement from the Democratic Russia Movement says, this organization declares its readiness to go over to the opposition in the city adminstration. How things develop only time will tell, as they say.

Problems of 'Multiple Authority' Noted

LD2012041391

[Editorial Report] Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 2000 GMT on 19 December, during its regularly scheduled newscast, carries a five-minute report by correspondent Lyudmila Moskalenko on a news conference by Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov with unidentified correspondents in Moscow on 19 December.

Moskalenko opens by noting that Popov said his decision to resign the Moscow mayorship was an extreme and desparate method of drawing attention to all existing troubles and adversities, saying: "Given the peaceful course of events, anarchy is being dragged out indefinitely in the city, which will lead to the breakdown of reform and the final collapse. Anarchy and multiple authority, again according to the mayor's definition, proceed from the fact that so far it is not precisely laid down whom the mayor's office should submit to—the RSFSR president or to Mossovet, the latter being one of Gavriil Kharitonovich Popov's main opponents. Now, as Gavriil Kharitonovich said, acting on behalf of Mossovet are the Presidium and the city duma, which constituted and confirmed itself and, consequently, cannot be the one who expresses the opinion of the deputies' corps as a whole. The second serious component is the Supreme Soviet which adopts laws, which means a movement backward. Privatization is one of the most important conditions that will allow for an improved life and will achieve a flourishing, civilized, and well-fed society in which everybody has enough to eat. This is the centerpiece of the mayor's program. Moscow has long been ready for this. Gavriil Popov insists on Moscow's special status as a super city, megapolis, which cannot fit into the framework of all-Russian laws."

Moskalenko then points out: "The resignation statement is an attempt to shake up Muscovites, to rouse them from the state of passiveness, and to include them in the struggle for reform. Gavriil Popov himself, in the event his resignation takes place, is prepared to participate in this struggle as cochairman of the Democratic Reform Movement. As for relations with President Yeltsin, personally, Gavriil Popov continues to have good relations with him, both business and personal relations. Nevertheless, the president will have to decide. The Russian Government, too, will have to decide if the present mayor is replaced by Luzhkov, deputy mayor, Moscow premier, and Popov's natural successor."

Moskalenko ends the report with the following recorded clip of Popov speaking at the news conference: "Of course, my successor will have a difficult time of it, but I think that the Russian leadership will be forced to give this government substantially greater help than it is giving now. It will already be an issue of its prestige. I am absolutely confident that everything that I am asking for will take place."

Predicts Presidential Rule in Moscow

PM2012102691 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Dec 91 pp 1-2

[Yuriy Makhrin report on 19 December news conference by Moscow Mayor G. Popov: "Resignation, With Reservations: Is the Mayor of Moscow Ready To Lay Down His Powers?"]

[Text] Last Sunday [15 December] G. Popov announced his resignation. Yesterday he held a news conference.

Gavriil Kharitonovich did not read out his very long statement—eight pages; it was handed out to journalists afterwards. Popov said:

"My announcement is not spontaneous. The question of my leaving arose back in November. It was discussed several times at various levels, from President Yeltsin down, in the Movement for Democratic Reforms, and in 'Democratic Russia.' Unfortunately it proved impossible to find a solution that I considered satisfactory, and so I decided it was necessary to lay down my powers as mayor. I propose to do this at the end of the year."

Answering a question, Popov noted that he has not yet submitted a written letter of resignation.

What prompted the mayor, who was elected in June, to think about quitting? His message to the Muscovites says: Enormous pressure is being exerted on City Hall through Moscow City Soviet and the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. The former interferes in the functions of the executive, the latter is imposing on the capital the Law on Local Self-Government. In short, the soviets are interfering.

Gavriil Kharitonovich goes on to ask a string of rhetorical questions: "Why should the will of the deputies be put above the will of the Muscovites who elected the mayor? Who is behind this process?" The author of the statement concludes that things cannot go on like this. It is necessary to decide finally, to whom should City Hall be subordinate—the RSFSR president, or Moscow City Soviet?

"I am left with only this desperate method (resignation) of drawing attention to a problem that is extremely important for the future of Moscow and the Muscovites," G. Popov writes.

He goes on to note that another solution is possible, instead of resignation. It is necessary to grant Moscow autonomy in the implementation of reforms and to suspend the activity of the local soviets until new elections at the end of 1992. If this is done, Gavriil Popov is prepared to reconsider his decision.

In short, it is resignation with reservations.

During the press conference G. Popov criticized the draft RSFSR Law on the Status of Moscow: "They want to go back to the system of 'All power to the soviets!'"

And so the leader of the capital's power team is to go. Normally all the members of the team would resign. No, G. Popov said, all the others should say, and the vice mayor will be his successor. Gavriil Kharitonovich's prediction is this: Most likely Boris Yeltsin will in future introduce direct presidential rule in the capital.

After leaving his post as mayor, G. Popov plans to edit the journal VOPROSY EKONOMIKI and participate actively in political life as cochairman of the Movement for Democratic Reforms.

Resignation Depends on Yeltsin

LD1912223691 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Dec 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] One of the main stories circulated in Moscow today is the resignation of Mayor Gavriil Popov. Many people link this politician with their hope that Moscow will be extricated from the current catastrophic situation.

[Begin correspondent Aleksandr Shashakov recording] Gavriil Popov stated at a news conference today that he is ready to resign before the new year.

According to Popov, his threat to resign is his method of struggle to change the configuration of forces in the political arena. If Boris Yeltsin sanctions Moscow under the regime of a special economic zone and takes his team from under the influence of the deputy corps, Gavriil Popov may well stay in his post. If he does resign, either the chair of the mayor will be taken by Yuriy Luzhkov who will be helped by the Russian Government, or presidential rule will be introduced in Moscow. In any case, according to Popov, the successor will be forced to follow in his footsteps. [end recording]

Resignation Taken 'Negatively'

OW1912135591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Republican party of the Russian Federation (RPRF) has expresssed a negative attitude to the resignation of Moscow's mayor Gavriil Popov. According to its press release, his renunciation of the mandate received from the Muscovites will negatively affect their attitude to democratic government bodies and give rise to suspicions that the leaders of the democratic movement come to power to indulge their private ambitions and opportunistic considerations.

According to the RPRF, G. Popov's leaving the post of mayor will considerably weaken the prospects for reforms in Moscow.

Moscow Police Chief Denies Resignation Rumors

LD1912112291 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1653 GMT 19 Dec 91

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Chief of the Municipal Department of Interior of Moscow Arkadiy Murashev refuted rumors about his intention to resign together with the capital's Mayor Gavriil Popov on December 18. He also stated at a briefing that the fact that the leadership of the Municipal Department of Interior had been changed too often was negatively affecting the work of the law enforcement agencies themselves. The government of Moscow, mentioned Murashev, had its own complaints about the

police not dispersing participants of meetings and not actively enough struggling against speculators, however, we believe that the police should not be a tool of authorities. The function of police is, primarily, to protect the rights of citizens, it won't be the tool of suppression of citizens' rights, stressed Murashev.

Murashev stated that he was publicly apologizing to the deputies who had been arrested during manifestation in the Soviet Square as well as personally to the Moscow Municipal Council Deputy Viktor Anpilov. If investigation proves that he was beaten by police officers during the picketing of Lenin's Museum then the culprits would be punished. Murashev also refuted the rumors that the Municipal Department of Interior was gathering negative materials in respect of the Moscow government. He said that those rumors were apparently connected with the fact that the Department in Charge of Investigation of Thefts of Socialist Property (OBKhSS) had started investigation of a bribery case during privatization of housing some connections of which probably led to certain municipal authorities. We are resolute to investigate this case to the end.

Our objective is,—Murashev stated further,—to transform Soviet militia into a police body of the Western type. In February- March a group of officers of the Moscow militia would go for a training to Vienna and Madrid. A new elite branch of municipal militia is being created in Moscow the officers of which would be working under contracts.

Referring to the problems of crime Murashev said that the crime growth is an inescapable objective trend, however, in absolute figures Moscow has been still lagging far behind the level of the largest Western states. He also supported the right of obtaining under license personal arms because under the present conditions the state could not fulfill its obligations in respect of protection of each family. Besides Murashev informed that an amnesty was expected in the beginning of the next year for all persons convicted for entrepreneurial activity.

Concerning the reasons of Mr. Popov's resignation Murashev said that it was connected with the vagueness of Moscow's status during the last six months. In spring, he said, president and Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR supported the concept of a special regime of the capital envisaging a more rapid that in the rest of Russia tempo of political and economic reforms. However, according to the new draft law on Moscow's status to be adopted by the Russian Parliament the capital would receive the same treatment as the rest of the territory of the country which would bring forth, according to Murashev, re-establishment of the discredited Soviet power.

Sobchak: New Union To Replace Commonwealth

LD1912094991 Moscow TASS in English 0920 GMT 19 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Nikolay Kondratenko]

[Text] St. Petersburg, December 19 TASS—The Commonwealth of Independent States will eventually become a single union state, St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak said on Wednesday [18 December].

In an interview with TASS, Sobchak stressed republican leaders should stop destroying things and begin creating them. "Then we will be able to come to an agreement," he said.

He believes the majority of republican leaders have come to power proclaiming nationalistic and popular ideas and they will need some time to bring their views in compliance with common sense.

Speaking about Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov's decision to resign, Sobchak said it is a "serious warning to Russian authorities". The prolonged confrontation between the mayor [and] the city council forced Popov to resign, but he will continue his political activities as head of the Democratic Reforms Movement, Sobchak said.

Sobchak said the situation in his city is "calmer" than in Moscow and said he does not plan to resign. "I have taken certain responsibilities before the citizens and I will exercise them," Sobchak said.

Opposition to St. Petersburg's Mayor Growing

OW1912133491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Popular Front faction in the St. Petersburg city council has proclaimed opposition to the city's Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak. In an appeal to the democratic-minded public of St. Petersburg region the leaders of the Popular Front note that "Sobchak failed to fulfil his most important election pledges, and that his personnel policy reflects the use of conservative forces from the Communist party bureaucracy". Besides, the appeal points out, St. Petersburg's mayor "Shielded those who had contributed to the military coup in one way or another, and created a reputation of active democracy supporters for them". The faction referred to the former commander of the Leningrad military district General Viktor Samsonov, currently the chief of the USSR general staff, as an example.

According to the appeal, today negotiations with A. Sobchak "are useless. Moreover, they might jeopardize the process of consolidating the truly democratic forces in St. Petersburg".

Earlier opposition to A. Sobchak was proclaimed by the regional branch of the movement Democratic Russia which had backed him during his election campaign.

'Catastrophic Fuel Situation' in Buryat

LD1912151891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1222 GMT 19 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Trofimov]

[Text] Severobaykalsk (Buryat SSR) [Soviet Socialist Republic], 19 Dec (TASS)—A catastrophic fuel situation has taken shape in Severobaykalsk, Buryatia's newest town. With the onset of a real Siberian winter here the temperature in most houses and apartment buildings, schools, nursery schools, and other institutions is close to freezing point. The main reason is a fuel shortage. The "Krasnoyarskugol" [Krasnoyarsk Coal] Association has refused to deliver 130,000 tonnes of coal to the town unless return deliveries of timber, rails, and railway sleepers are made. However, the "BAMkommunoergo" [Baykal-Amur Main communal energy] enterprise which provides Severobaykalsk with heating is not in a position to satisfy the miners' demands. The shortage of heating has engendered a shortage of electricity.

Groznyy Pipeline Cut Off; Shortages 'Peak'

LD1912213591 Moscow TASS in English 1948 GMT 19 Dec 91

[By TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[Text] Stavropol December 19 TASS—A petrol shortage, the beginning of which was set in southern regions of Russia by Chechen-Ingushetia's decision to cut off the oil products-carrying pipelines leading from the Groznyy oil processing plants, has reached its peak. In Stavropol territory, for example, almost all filling stations are at the standstill for lack of fuel.

"Over the five days that passed after the pipelines were cut off, we have spent all petrol reserves", a spokesman at the Stavropolnefteprodukt Association told TASS. In order to somehow reduce the damage, people in Stavropol are attempting to establish treaty-based contacts with other suppliers. However, an acute shortage of tank cars is having its effect.

Pipelines which ensure the supply of a large share of raw materials to the Groznyy oil processing plants run through Stavropol territory which neighbours on the Chechen-Ingush Republic. Gas and electric power are supplied to Chechen-Ingushetia from Stavropol territory.

There is a growing body of opinion in Stavropol territory in favour of applying sanctions in retaliation. However, the territorial leadership does not intend to turn the supply of vitally important energy resourses into a measure designed to put pressure on neighbours.

No one can derive benefit from a lack of coordination in the provision of energy resources. On the contrary, this can be of detriment to everyone, including those who venture to cut off oil products-carrying pipelines.

Donbass Deprived of 'Last Hope'

LD1912123991 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 19 Dec 91

[From the "Television News Service" newscast]

[Text] Today, a small percentage of motor vehicles in an enormous region still run. Tomorrow, they may come to a complete standstill. Deliveries of gasoline by the Donbass permanent partners, the Volgograd and Tambov refineries, stopped a long time ago, because deliveries of oil from Russia did not resume following the signing of the interstate economic agreement. The Lisichansk and Kremenchug oil refineries in the Ukraine are practically standing idle. Now, the Donbass is deprived of its last hope. The pipeline from Groznyy, which supplied diesel fuel, has been sealed off. This has been done, as it was explained at the other end of the pipeline, on the orders of General Dudayev. But almost 50 percent of motor transportation runs on diesel fuel, including many buses. But this is evidently not just a matter of the ambitions of politicians. People who are in the know assert that everyone is waiting for the prices to be freed. For the moment, long lines are forming outside shops. When they do open them, it turns out that the shelves are empty. It is absolutely impossible to buy dairy products in Donetsk. There is nothing on which to carry the milk from the collective farms. There are serious interruptions in bread supplies.

Despite all that, people believe things will not become completely absurd and that life in the Donbass, which provides the country with output worth 30 billion rubles, will not come to a standstill tomorrow.

Yarov Asks Dudayev To Nominate Expert Group

PM2012130591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Dec 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "How To Reach Agreement?"]

[Text] Yu. Yarov, deputy chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, has sent a letter to General D. Dudayev.

It says: As you know, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet adopted a resolution on 11 November 1991, instructing the leadership of the Supreme Soviet and the government of the RSFSR to resolve all questions concerning events in Checheno-Ingushetia by political means.

In execution of this resolution, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet leadership sent to Groznyy on 3 December a group of independent experts comprising A.-G.K. Aliyev, V.I. Vlasov, G.M. Kerimov, V.P. Okeanov, and N.A. Rezvanov to prepare the documents necessary for the upcoming talks. Unfortunately, you were unable to receive the experts or the letter sent via the leader of the group, as a consequence of which, it appears, specific mutually agreed proposals have not been elaborated.

Today, as a result of the cessation of supplies of fuel and lubricants from Checheno-Ingushetia via pipeline, the

situation in the region has sharply deteriorated. A whole series of enterprises are on the verge of closing down and the vital interests of millions of people living in Adyge, Dagestan, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachayevo-Cherkesia, Checheno-Ingushetia, Krasnodar and Stavropol Krays, and Rostov Oblast have been affected.

The path to the solution of problems by political means lies in prompt talks. With a view to speeding up the preparation of the documents necessary for the upcoming talks between the delegation of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet and government and the delegation of Checheno-Ingushetia, determining the prospects for solving organizational questions, and specifying a venue and date for the meeting, I would ask you to name the members of your own group of experts and send the group to Moscow. On our side, the aforementioned experts and specialists representing the RSFSR government will be taking part. I would ask that you inform me by letter of your decision and the date of the arrival of your group of experts.

Tuva Supreme Soviet Adopts Presidential Rule

LD1912111291 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2041 GMT 18 Dec 91

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] On December 18 Supreme Soviet of Republic of Tuva adopted laws which approve presidential rule in the republic. On the session which opened on December 18, of 128 deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the republic, only two ones voted against the adoption of the laws on election of the president of the Republic of Tuva and on the president of the republic of Tuva. [sentence as received] According to the adopted laws, the president of the republic is proclaimed the supreme official and head of the executive power in Tuva.

In accordance with the law, a citizen of Tuva not younger than 35 and not older than 60 years can be elected the president. The president of the republic should deliver an oath in both Tuvinian and Russian languages. The president of the Republic of Tuva is granted a right of protesting against decrees of the state organs and public organizations of the RSFSR which infringe upon the lawful interests of the republic. The protests are made through the constitutional court of the republic. The decrees of the president of Tuva can be suspended by the RSFSR president, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet and the RSFSR Constitutional Court in case these decrees contradict the RSFSR Constitution and laws. At the same time they can be cancelled only by the Supreme Soviet of Tuva. The laws are put in force from the moment of their adoption. The terms of election of the president are not determined. According to the deputies' proposal, they are planned to be held on the last Sunday of March, 1992.

Kaadyr-ool Bicheldey, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tuva, told PF [POSTFACTUM] that he was not going to run for the post of the republic's president. According to him, it is on his present post that he is going, if a necessity arises, to deliver a constructive opposition to the future president. According to some local analysts, the only real pretender to the post of president of Tuva is the chairman of the Soviet of Ministers of the Republic of Tuva, Sherig-ool Oorzhak.

Supreme Soviet

Declaration on Human, Civic Rights Issued

LD1912133291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1735 GMT 18 Dec 91

["Declaration of Human and Civic Rights and Liberties Adopted by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet on 22 November 1991"—TASS headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received] Affirming the rights and liberties of the individual and his honor and dignity as a supreme value of society and the state, noting the need to bring RSFSR legislation into line with the standards of human rights and liberties generally recognized by the international community, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet adopts the present declaration:

Article 1.

1. The individual's rights and liberties belong to him from birth.

2. The generally recognized international norms applying to human rights take priority over RSFSR laws and directly give rise to civic rights and obligations that may be limited by law only to the extent that it is necessary for the purposes of protecting the constitutional system, morality, health, legitimate rights, and interests of other people in a democratic society.

Article 3. [as received]

1. Everyone is equal before the law and the courts.

2. Equality of rights and liberties is guaranteed by the state irrespective of race, nationality, language, social origin, property status, official capacity, place of residence, attitude to religion, convictions, membership of public associations, as well as other circumstances.

3. Men and women have equal rights and liberties.

4. Persons guilty of violating the equal rights of citizens are brought to account on the basis of the law.

Article 4.

1. When realizing his rights and freedoms a person must not violate the rights and freedoms of other individuals.

2. It is forbidden to use rights and freedoms for the violent change of the constitutional system; for whipping up racial, national, class, and religious hate; or for the propoganda of violence and war.

Article 5.

1. Everybody has the right to obtain and relinquish citizenship of the Russian Federation in accordance with RSFSR law.

2. An RSFSR citizen may not be deprived of citizenship of the Russian Federation or be banished beyond its borders.

3. An RSFSR citizen cannot be handed over to another state other than on the basis of RSFSR or USSR law or international treaty.

4. The Russian Federation guarantees its citizens defense and protection beyond its borders.

Article 6.

Individuals who are not RSFSR citizens and are on its territory legally enjoy the rights and freedoms, and also have the responsibilities of RSFSR citizens, with exceptions established by the RSFSR or USSR Constitution, laws, and international treaties. An individual may not be deprived of honorary citizenship or given political asylum on RSFSR territory without the agreement of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet.

Article 7.

Everyone has the right to life. No one may be abitrarily deprived of life. The state is seeking the complete abolition of the death penalty. The death penalty, until it is abolished, may be used as an exceptional punishment measure for particularly serious crimes only by sentence of a court and jury.

Article 8.

1. Everyone has the right to freedom and personal inviolability.

2. Arrest may be challenged by court procedure.

3. Confinement under guard and deprivation of liberty are permitted only on the basis of a court decision in a procedure envisaged by the law.

4. No one may be subjected to torture, violence, other treatment that is cruel or degrades human dignity, or punishment. No one may be subjected to medical, scientific, or other experiments without his voluntary agreement.

Article 9.

1. Everyone has the right to the inviolability of his private life and to secrecy of correspondence, telephone conversations, and telegraph or other communications. Restriction of this right is permitted only in accordance with the law on the basis of a court decision.

2. Everyone has the right to respect for, and protection of, his honor and dignity.

3. The gathering, keeping, use, and dissemination of information about a person's private life without his agreement are not permitted, with the exception of instances stipulated in the law.

Article 10.

1. Everyone has a right to housing. No one may be arbitrarily deprived of housing.

2. The state encourages the construction of housing and promotes the implementation of the right to housing.

3. Housing for low-income citizens is provided free of charge or on preferential terms from the state and municipal housing stocks.

Article 11.

1. Accommodation is inviolable. No one has the right to enter accommodation against the will of the persons resident in it.

2. Searching and other acts carried out with entry to accommodation are permitted on the basis of a court decision. In instances that brook no delay, a different procedure is possible, established by law and envisaging the compulsory subsequent checking by a court of the legality of these acts.

Article 12.

1. Everyone has the right of freedom of movement and choice of place of sojourn and residence within the borders of the Russian Federation.

2. An RSFSR citizen has the right to freely leave its borders and return without hindrance.

3. Limitation of these rights is permitted only on the basis of law.

Article 13.

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, word, and also to the unhindered expression of his opinions and convictions. No one can be compelled to express his opinions and convictions.

2. Everyone has the right to seek, receive, and freely disseminate information. Limitations of this right may be established by law only with the aim of preserving a personal, family, professional, commercial, or state secret, and also morality. The list of information which is a state secret is established by law.

Article 14.

Everyone is guaranteed freedom of conscience, religion, and religious or atheistic activity. Everyone has the right to freely profess any religion or not profess any, to choose, have and disseminate religious or atheistic convictions and act in accordance with them on condition that the law is observed.

Article 15.

Every RSFSR citizen whose convictions conflict with doing military service has the right to replace it by fulfilling alternative civil duties in a manner established by law.

Article 16.

1. Everyone has the right to freely determine his ethnic status. No one must be compelled to determine and indicate his ethnic status.

2. Everyone has the right to use his native language, including being tutored and educated in his native language.

[Text] 3. Affronts to a person's ethnic dignity render the perpetrator liable to prosecution in accordance with the law.

Article 17.

RSFSR citizens are entitled to take part in running the affairs of society and the state both directly and through their representatives freely elected on the basis of universal and equal suffrage and a secret ballot.

Article 18.

RSFSR citizens are entitled to access to all posts in state bodies in line with their professional qualifications and without any discrimination. Requirements imposed on a person applying for a post as a state employee are determined exclusively by the nature of the official duties.

Article 19.

RSFSR citizens are entitled to assemble peacefully and unarmed, hold rallies, street marches, and demonstrations and mount pickets as long as prior notice is given to the authorities.

Article 20.

RSFSR citizens have the right of association. Limitations on this right can only be imposed by decision of a court on the basis of the law.

Article 21.

RSFSR citizens are entitled to send personal and collective representations to state bodies and officials, which are obliged, within the limits of their competence, to examine these representations, make decisions on them, and issue reasoned replies within a deadline set by law.

Article 22.

1. Everyone is entitled to be a property owner, in other words to have the right to own, use, and dispose of his property and other objects of ownership both individually and jointly with other persons.

The right to inheritance is guaranteed by law.

2. Everybody has the right to free enterprise which is not prohibited by law.

Article 23.

1. Everybody has the right to work which he chooses freely or to which he freely agrees and also the right to be in charge of his/her abilities to labor and to choose a profession and type of activity.

2. Everybody has the right to working conditions which meet the requirements of security and hygiene, to equal reward for equal work without any discrimination and not below a legally approved minimum size.

3. Everybody has the right to protection from unemployment.

4. Forced labor is prohibited.

Article 24.

1. Every worker is entitled to time off.

2. Hired workers are guaranteed the duration of the working time, weekly days off, public holidays, a paid annual leave, and a shortened working day for some professions and works which are established by law.

Article 25.

1. Everybody is entitled to a qualified medical help in the state system of public health. The state takes measures aimed at developing all forms providing medical services, including free of charge and paid medical service, and also medical insurance; encourages activity assisting ecological well-being, improving the health of everybody, and developing physical culture and sport.

2. Concealment by state officials of facts and circumstances which create a threat to life and health of people is prosecuted.

Article 26.

1. Everybody is entitled to social protection according to age, in case of losing ability to work or a bread winner and in other cases established by law.

2. Pensions, allowances, and other types of social aid must ensure that the level of life is not lower than a subsistence wage established by law.

3. The state develops the system of social insurance and security.

4. The setting up of social security public funds and charity are encouraged.

Article 27.

1. Everybody is entitled to education.

2. It is guaranteed that education within the limits of state educational standards is accessible to everyone and free of charge. Basic education is compulsory.

Article 28.

The State guarantees the protection of maternity and infancy, the rights of children, invalids, and retarded people as well as the rights of the citizens who have served sentences in places of deprivation of liberty and who need social support.

Article 29.

1. Law protects the freedom of artistic, scientific, and technical creative activities, research and tuition, as well as intellectual property.

2. It is recognized that every person is entitled to take part in cultural life and to use cultural institutions.

Article 30.

Everybody is entitled to defend one's own rights, freedoms, and lawful interests by all means that do not conflict with the law.

Article 31.

State bodies, institutions and officials are obliged to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to familiarize himself with documents and materials that directly affect his rights and freedoms, unless otherwise stipulated by the law.

Article 32.

Everyone is guaranteed the legal protection of his rights and freedoms. Decisions and actions by officials, state bodies, and public organizations that have entailed violation of the law or an exceeding of powers and which also infringe citizens' rights may be challenged in a court.

Article 33.

The rights of the victims of crimes and abuses of power are protected by law. The state ensures their access to justice and rapid compensation for loss inflicted.

Article 34.

1. Every person charged with a criminal offence is presumed to be innocent until his guilt is proven in a procedure envisaged by law and established by the sentence, which has come into legal force, of a competent, independent, and impartial court. [passage indistinct]

Article 36.

No one is obliged to testify against himself, his spouse, or close relatives, the circle of whom is defined by law. The law can also define other circumstances when a person can be released from the obligation to testify.

Article 37.

1. Everyone is guaranteed the right to take professional legal assistance. In cases laid down by law, this assistance is rendered free of charge.

2. Every person detained, held in custody or charged with a crime is entitled to the assistance of a lawyer (defense lawyer) from the moment of detention, taking into custody or charge.

Article 38.

Everyone has the right to compensation from the state for any damage caused by the illegal actions of state bodies and their officials while carrying out their official duties.

Article 39.

A temporary limitation of human and civic rights and freedoms is permitted in the event of the introduction of a state of emergency on the basis of and within the boundaries established by RSFSR law.

Article 40.

1. It is made incumbent upon an authorized parliamentary human rights representative to carry out parliamentary scrutiny of the observation of the rights and freedoms of human beings and citizens in the Russian Federation.

2. An authorized parliamentary human rights representative is appointed by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet for the period of five years, he enjoys the same immunity as an RSFSR people's deputy.

3. Plenary powers of an authorized parliamentary human rights representative and the order of their implementation are established by law.

Tax Bill for Enterprises, Organizations Passed

OW2012015091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2000 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation has debated today, Thursday, the government's bill on profit tax for enterprises and organisations in 1992. The bill was passed in the first reading.

As reported by the Interfax parliamentary correspondent, Russia's government proposed a 35% profit tax on enterprises and organisations, a 50% one on brokers and investments institutions, and a 25% one on foreign investments.

Most criticized in the debate was the clause limiting wages expenditure by four-fold minimal wage multiplied by the number of workers. Russia's Deputy Economics and Finance Minister Sergey Gorbachev argued the bill imposed no curbs on wages.

Cuts in Union Budget Expenditure Sought

PM201210199 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Dec 91 First Edition p 1

[RSFSR Supreme Soviet Resolution "On the Procedure for Enacting the RSFSR Law 'On Mutual Relations with the Union Budget Through the End of 1991,'" signed by R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, and dated 5 December 1991, RSFSR House of the Soviets, Moscow]

[Text] The RSFSR Supreme Soviet resolves:

1. To enact the RSFSR Law "On Mutual Relations With the Union Budget Through the End of 1991" from the moment that it is signed by the RSFSR president.

2. To confirm that the RSFSR's principled position on funding the joint expenditure of the Economic Community's member states is based on the appropriate provisions of the Treaty on the Economic Community.

3. On the basis of Part 2 of Article 76 of the RSFSR Constitution and Point 1 of the Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies resolution "On Legal Backup for Economic Reform," to suspend the operation on RSFSR territory of USSR Supreme Soviet Resolution No. 128-N of 3 December 1991 "On USSR Gosbank [State Bank] Credits for Funding Unionwide Expenditure in 1991."

4. To instruct the USSR Supreme Soviet to consider the question of the possibility of reducing Union budget and unionwide extrabudgetary economic stabilization fund expenditure for the fourth quarter of 1991 by no less than 15 percent with a corresponding reduction in the budget deficit. To consider this reduction in Union budget spending a requisite condition for the RSFSR's participation in funding the above joint expenditure by the Economic Community's member states.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet.
RSFSR House of the Soviets, Moscow, 5 December 1991.

Decree Raises Minimum Wage for Dependents

PM1912152391 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Dec 91 First Edition p 2

[RSFSR Law "On Increasing the Minimum Wage," signed by RSFSR President B. Yeltsin and dated 6 December 1991, RSFSR House of the Soviets, Moscow]

[Text] With a view of maintaining a minimum standard of living for workers in the national economy and students during the period of economic reform and in view of Article 1 of the RSFSR president's 15 November 1991 decree "On Increasing Wages of Personnel of Budgetary Organizations and Establishments," the RSFSR Supreme Soviet resolves:

Article 1. To raise the minimum wage in organizations and establishments funded from budgetary sources as of 1 January 1992 to 342 rubles per month, taking into account compensation introduced as of April 1991 in connection with the retail price increase.

Other enterprises, organizations, and establishments will introduce the minimum wage specified in the first part of this article during the first quarter of 1992 as they find their own funds for these purposes.

The minimum wage does not include supplements and allowances or bonuses and other incentive payments.

Article 2. To fix grants for full-time postgraduate students at higher educational and research establishments; successful students at full-time higher educational establishments; and pupils at secondary specialized educational establishments as of 1 January 1992 in accordance with the procedure envisaged in Article 5 of the RSFSR Law "On Increasing Social Guarantees for Working People," on the basis of the minimum wage fixed in Article 1 of this law.

Article 3. To rule invalid as of 1 January 1992 Article [illegible] of the RSFSR Law "On Increasing Social Guarantees for Working People."

Article 4. Until the appropriate changes and addenda are made to the RSFSR Law "On State Pensions in the RSFSR," to raise the minimum old-age pension following a total length of service equivalent to that required for payment of a full pension, as of 1 January 1992, to the level of the minimum wage envisaged in Article 1 of this law.

A pension with the prescribed allowances may exceed the above minimum wage.

[Signed] RSFSR President B. Yeltsin.

RSFSR House of the Soviets, Moscow, 6 December 1991.

Supreme Soviet Presidium Session Announced

PM1912151191 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Dec 91 First Edition p 1

[RSFSR Supreme Soviet Press Center report: "In the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium"]

[Text] A regular session of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium occurred under the chairmanship of R. Khasbulatov.

Information from A. Murashev, chief of Moscow Internal Affairs Main Administration, about the state of the fight against crime in the capital was discussed. It was decided to consider the report in RSFSR Supreme Soviet committees and commissions for the purpose of preparing appropriate legislative documents.

The Treaty on the Foundations of Interstate Relations Between Russia and Estonia was considered. There was

a presentation of the draft laws "On Mineral Wealth," "On Mortgages," and "On RSFSR Security." The Presidium sent them to committees, commissions, and chambers for consideration.

The Presidium supported Kemerovo Oblast Soviet's initiative and resolved to bring in the Law "On Medical Insurance for RSFSR Citizens" on Kemerovo Oblast territory ahead of schedule—on 1 January 1992.

Proceedings Detailed From 19 Dec Session

LD1912220691

[Editorial report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1925 GMT on 19 December broadcasts a recorded 31-minute report on the 19 December RSFSR Supreme Soviet session. Reception is good.

At 1926 GMT, M.A. Ulyanov is given the floor. He reads a message on behalf of Russian cultural workers, expressing their fears for the future of Russian culture. He regrets that tax concessions for culture are minimal.

At 1931 GMT, the floor is given to Deputy Finance Minister S.V. Gorbachev, who talks about wage rates and taxes on enterprises. Enterprises can pay whatever wages they like, but the wages paid above a set amount must come from the post-tax profits of the enterprise. Taxes on profits are being greatly changed in light of the freeing of prices, he says.

At 1943 GMT, an unidentified deputy at the rostrum subjects the deputy finance minister's remarks to detailed criticism.

At 1946 GMT, Deputy (Zasokin) from Kamchatka says a specific time period must be given for the new law. Gorbachev says it is envisaged to last for the whole of 1992.

At 1948 GMT, Khasbulatov puts the proposal to the vote in the first reading and it is passed.

At 1949 GMT, a draft law on the media is introduced for its second reading. Yeremin, chairman of a subcommittee of the committee on mass media, tells about the amendments which have been made to the bill. It is put to the vote and passed. After a "stormy debate"—not shown—it is passed.

At 1951 GMT, the presidential decree on provisions of medicines is presented by Deputy Gerasimov.

The program ends at 1955 GMT. No further processing planned.

Khasbulatov Remarks on Moscow City's Ties

PM1912131391 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Dec 91 First Edition p 1

[Aleksandr Linkov report under the "Express Interview" rubric: "No Point Making Mountains out of Molehills. There Are Enough Real Problems"]

[Text] "It is all much ado about nothing," Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, said yesterday [17 December] when answering a question from RIA, INTERFAX, and our newspaper's correspondents concerning E. Honecker's wish to move to North Korea. "Our country is perishing but people have made a mountain out of a molehill over this. He is an old man, let him live where he wants."

Evaluating Moscow Mayor G. Popov's resignation statement, Khasbulatov noted that the republic leadership had pinned great hopes on him. It was in Moscow that some of the new ideas had been tried and tested in practice. The Supreme Soviet always met the capital's leadership halfway and perceived it as supporting the implementation of reforms. Therefore the motives for Popov's statement at such a difficult time were somewhat incomprehensible.

The RSFSR Supreme Soviet chairman would not comment on the president's decision to appoint Sergey Shakhray deputy chairman of the government. It is the president's right to appoint his own deputies, he said. However, the opinion currently prevailing in the Supreme Soviet holds that the next congress must decide the question of appointments to the top state posts being once again reviewed in the Supreme Soviet.

Interrepublic Affairs

Burbulis Cited on Commonwealth, Gorbachev

PM2012114991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Dec 91 Union Edition pp 1, 2

[V. Kononenko report: "What Working and Representative Organs Might There Be in the Commonwealth of Independent States"]

[Text] First Vice Premier G. Burbulis had come to a meeting with journalists to comment on the results of the 18 December Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Government session held under B. Yeltsin's chairmanship. However, he unexpectedly made a statement which can be regarded as the Russian leadership's platform for the meeting of heads of independent states due in Alma-Ata 21 December.

The Minsk agreements were the only correct political choice, G. Burbulis said. The full Russian delegation will continue work in this area in Alma-Ata. B. Yeltsin will arrive there from a trip to Italy. So far the Central Asian republics, Kazakhstan, and Armenia have already announced their intention to join the Commonwealth. Moldova has not yet expressed its position because of the complex situation in the republic. However, we know that, according to President M. Snegur, such readiness exists.

At the meeting in Alma-Ata we will propose, in particular, the concept of a defensive union, as well as a number of agreements in development of the Minsk

accords. It is a question of the working and representative organs of the Commonwealth. There are several options here. It is possible that a Council of Heads of State, a Council of Heads of Government, and a Defense Council which will include the heads of the independent states, will be created. B. Yeltsin had a meeting with M. Gorbachev yesterday [19 December], G. Burbulis continued. It was already of a different nature, and the quest for the optimum ways, means, and forms of establishing the Commonwealth was discussed there.

Answering a question from IZVESTIYA's correspondent about the possible future fate of Gorbachev the politician, the first vice premier declared: "We have every respect for M. Gorbachev as a politician, we are maximally correct toward him, and we intend to propose and support decisions which will ensure worthy respect for his work in the past, the present, and the future. We rule out a disparaging intonation in relation to M. Gorbachev, and we guarantee a heightened moral stand on this delicate question. As for the question of the role in which M. Gorbachev could participate in the new formation of states, this depends on him alone."

Commenting on the results of the government session, G. Burbulis reported, in particular: The president's decree on budget projections for 1992 was discussed, and a government resolution on the draft budget for the first quarter of 1992 was also adopted. The draft differs from previous ones in that it is a consolidated one—it is not broken down into republic, kray, oblast, and municipal ones. The government intends to seek a deficit-free budget. Provision has been made for a substantial reduction in appropriations to the defense complex. In addition to the traditional sources for forming the budget, specific ones have also been proposed, such as selling off uncompleted construction projects on a competition basis.

The government resolution also resolves a question of fundamental importance—that of delimiting state ownership between levels of management, without which oblasts, krays, and municipal organs have been unable to begin large-scale privatization.

In development of the president's decree on the liberalization of foreign economic activity, decisions were adopted on the formation of the republic currency reserve, on the introduction of an export tariff for individual goods exported from Russia, and on the issuing of licenses and the establishment of quotas for exports and imports of goods and services.

The government was rebuked, G. Burbulis continued, for delaying reform in the agrarian sector of the economy. A package of presidential decrees proposing, in particular, the reorganization of collective and state farms was discussed today. It is primarily a question of farms that run at a loss. It is impossible to finance them any longer, but the government will ensure legal and other assistance to switch them to other forms of ownership. Food stocks will be formed by means of incentives on a contract basis with collective and private farms without a difference in prices.

The government also examined a block of questions relating to the population's social protection. The ideology here is this—to ensure a preferential regime of compensation and indexation of the population's income. The president's decree on nonstate pension funds proposes that money be attracted from nontraditional sources to support the population.

In conclusion, the first vice premier said, versions of the Russian emblem were discussed at the session. Two sketches have been prepared by well-known artists, reproducing the traditional Russian symbol—a two-headed eagle. We prefer the version of the "less evil eagle," but the decision will be up to the Supreme Soviet.

Answering journalists' questions, G. Burbulis touched on G. Popov's resignation. He declared in this connection: "Such a decision by the mayor of Moscow was not unexpected for him and can be accounted for by G. Popov's concern with the overall situation and his natural fatigue. A session of the government of Moscow was held today, and its representatives were of the same opinion as myself, that the mayor must be persuaded to remain in his post. This question will be discussed at a 24 December meeting between representatives of the Moscow authorities and B. Yeltsin." I do not rule out complex political consequences of G. Popov's resignation, the first vice premier said.

Further on Briefing

PM2012123191 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Dec 91 First Edition p 1

[Report by Yevgeniya Pishchikova and Sergey Nikitin under the rubric "At the RSFSR Government": "Minsk - Alma-Ata"]

[Text] The Russian delegation is going to Alma-Ata to continue the Minsk work, Gennadiy Burbulis said, giving journalists details of the 19 December government session. It is expected that the Council of Heads of States and the Council of Governments will be the supreme bodies of the Commonwealth with an as yet uncertain name. As for Mikhail Gorbachev's possible participation in the Alma-Ata meeting, the state secretary remarked that "in this delicate instance, a high moral stance has to be adopted."

The government has finally paid attention to agrarian matters as well. G. Burbulis stressed that loss-making agricultural enterprises will no longer be financed out of the state budget. Workers on ruined kolkhozes and sovkhozes are promised certain social guarantees. A permanently operating Commission on Food has been organized, headed by the state secretary himself.

At the end of the press conference journalists were shown specimens of the Russian coat of arms. They are versions of the short-lived coat of arms of the Provisional Government—a two-headed eagle without the crowns, orb, and scepter. All the eagles were executed on the basis of sketches by distinguished artists and, without the great-power symbols, are reminiscent of Chernobyl mutants. G. Burbulis said he preferred the bird with the kind eyes.

Independence of Armenia, Others Recognized

PM1912123991 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Dec 91 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "President Yeltsin—On Independence..."]

[Text] **...Armenia**

The Russian leadership states its recognition of the independence of the Republic of Armenia in accordance with the democratic choice of its people and parliament, enshrined in the 25 September 1991 "Declaration of Armenian Independence."

We are, without doubt, convinced of the need to establish and develop new interstate relations between Russia and Armenia both on the basis of an all-embracing bilateral treaty and within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] while preserving and consolidating the age-old traditions of friendship, good neighborliness, and mutual respect between Russia and Armenia. The efforts made by Russia and Armenia to safeguard human rights as enshrined in international legal acts will occupy an important position in these relations.

In the new conditions, independent Russia and Armenia, cooperating in the international arena and collaborating on a whole spectrum of bilateral ties, will make an appreciable contribution to the cause of strengthening peace and regional stability on the Eurasian continent.

...Kazakhstan

The Kazakh Supreme Soviet adopted a Law "On the Independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan" 16 December. The Russian leadership states its recognition of Kazakh independence in accordance with the democratic will of its people and parliament.

We are sincerely convinced of the need to most speedily establish new interstate relations between Russia and Kazakhstan, including within the framework of the CIS on the basis of the age-old traditions of friendship, good neighborliness, and mutual respect between both peoples.

The foundations of the all-embracing mutually beneficial partnership between Russia and Kazakhstan were laid by the treaty of 21 November 1990 and other subsequent documents. We are ready to start work on a full-scale draft interstate treaty that accords with the new phase of relations between Russia and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Independent Russia and Kazakhstan, cooperating in the international arena, will make a weighty contribution to the cause of strengthening peace and security on the Eurasian continent.

Russia's and Kazakhstan's adherence to their international commitments, in particular on the nonproliferation and limitation of nuclear weapons and on ensuring unified control over these weapons, as well as in the human rights sphere, notably the prevention of ethnic discrimination and freedom to choose citizenship, and our states' collaboration in forming a common economic area all create a foundation for the most speedy establishment of diplomatic relations between the RSFSR and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

...Moldova

"The Russian Government states its recognition of the independence of the Republic of Moldova in accordance with its people's democratic choice.

"Russia is willing to establish and develop interstate relations with Moldova on the basis of an all-embracing bilateral treaty, while unswervingly observing commitments stemming from universally recognized principles and norms of international law.

"The parameters of the mutually beneficial partnership between our states are defined by the Helsinki Final Act and other documents within the pan-European process.

"We are convinced that Russia and Moldova will find solutions to existing problems that are in their peoples' interests, including ensuring human rights and the rights of ethnic minorities.

"Russia is willing to establish diplomatic relations with the Republic of Moldova, and at this juncture we note with satisfaction that the Moldova leadership has reacted positively to the Agreement on the Creation of the CIS and has expressed readiness to study it in depth.

"We express the hope that, in the new historical conditions, independent Russia and Moldova will be able to preserve and augment the long-standing traditions of fraternal cooperation and mutual understanding."

Far East To Remain in Russian Republic

OW1912145791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1440 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Khabarovsk, Soviet Far East, Dec. 19 KYODO—A leader of an organization of areas of the Soviet Far East denied reports Thursday [19 December] of moves to revive the defunct Far Eastern Republic of the 1920s, saying the area will remain in the Russian Republic.

A. Pantchenko, secretary general of "Far Eastern Society," which groups 10 territories and regions, told

KYODO NEWS SERVICE it would not be constructive for the Far Eastern area to separate from the Russian Republic.

He said the area will try to achieve economic independence as a member of the Russian Republic.

But Pantchenko said that if Moscow does not support the Far Eastern area, it may study the possibility of political independence in the near future.

Gov. Valentin Fedorov of Sakhalin and some officials of Chita Oblast (region) have called for the restoration of the Far Eastern Republic to achieve a political and economic settlement of a long- standing territorial dispute with Japan over four islands off Hokkaido seized by the Soviet Army at the end of World War II.

The islands, which Japan demands back, are under the jurisdiction of the Russian Republic.

The Far Eastern Republic, created by Vladimir Lenin in 1920 as a buffer zone between the Soviet Union and Japan, was supplanted two years later by the Far Eastern Region, reorganized as the Far Eastern area in 1926, and divided in 1938.

Pantchenko said reviving the republic to solve the territorial dispute is not justifiable. He said the problem has already been settled within the Far Eastern Society.

Pantchenko became the secretary general of the organization in July after serving as the Mayor of Khabarovsk for 10 years.

Interrepublic Affairs

Baker's Talks in Belarus, Ukraine Described

PM2012114591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Dec 91 Union Edition p 5

[Reports from Minsk by special correspondents S. Mostovshchikov and N. Matukovskiy and from Kiev by G. Charodeyev: "U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker Held Talks in Capitals of Belarus and the Ukraine on the 'Red Button' and Humanitarian Aid"]

[Text] Minsk—Journalists gathered in the House of Interrepublic Economic and Trade Relations spent a few hours guessing: Would the U.S. secretary of state have flown into Minsk had there not been 72 strategic missiles on Belarus territory? The whole world is concerned about the uncertain future of the "red button" because of the headlong collapse of the former Union.

One-on-one talks were held behind closed doors. S. Shushkevich, chairman of the Supreme Soviet; V. Kebich, chairman of the Council of Ministers; and P. Kravchenko, Belarus foreign minister, took part in them on the Belarussian side. The talks lasted almost double the scheduled time. Secretary of State James Baker was rushing off to Kiev and therefore only answered one question from journalists. "The talks were very good," he said.

Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and Vyacheslav Kebich, chairman of the Council of Ministers, answered journalists' questions in greater detail. They confirmed that the question of nuclear missile weapons and control over them was indeed the main issue at the talks. We stated our unbending determination to render the Republic of Belarus an independent, neutral state and a nuclear-free zone. Belarus today meets all the conditions for being recognized as an independent, sovereign state. We have agreed for the time being to exchange consulates, which will become embassies in time. It is quite possible that at some stage we will ask the United States for help in destroying our nuclear missile arsenal. The U.S. side agreed to offer us that help.

"Was there talk of humanitarian aid for the republic from the United States?"

"We reached some clarity on this issue too—as to the kind of aid that we need. The republic is able to feed itself, but it needs technological and medical help, etc. The secretary of state said that since 1989 the United States and the countries of Western Europe have given our state—now an former state—humanitarian aid worth $61 billion. Where is this money, if neither Belarus, Russia, nor the Ukraine received them? Depressing conclusions must be drawn regarding the role played by the former Moscow center. The secretary of state asked for lists to be drawn up immediately of all the goods and medicines that we need and would like to receive from the United States. These lists will be ready in a few days. This time the humanitarian aid will come to us directly."

"Were the problems of Chernobyl raised during the talks?"

"Yes, this was also discussed. The U.S. side is prepared to help us in this, our main misfortune, but here too we need to put in 'claims.' It will be far easier and simpler to implement this aid with consulates being established."

"Does the United States know of the great changes that have taken place in the republic lately?"

"The secretary of state and his colleagues voiced a very high opinion of the democratic transformations that have occurred and are occurring in the Republic of Belarus. They spoke approvingly of the steps that we have taken toward joining the European and world communities and voiced a high opinion of our parliament's and government's activity. We realized that they are keeping a very careful eye on the processes taking place in our country. They very properly did not broach questions pertaining to the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS], saying that this is a purely domestic problem for us, but they indicated that they would like to be dealing with some kind of integral community [mir]."

It is symbolic that two days before this meeting a direct air route was opened up between Minsk and New York, our special correspondents S. Mostovshchikov and N. Matukovskiy report.

Kiev—On his arrival in the Ukrainian capital, the U.S. secretary of state met with President Leonid Kravchuk. During the conversation, they discussed questions pertaining to control of the nuclear arms in the Ukraine and the democratic and economic reforms taking place in the republic. There was also talk of the United States giving the Ukraine aid in resolving problems of eliminating nuclear weapons. Considerable attention was paid to the question of U.S. recognition of Ukrainian independence.

There was a brief news conference in the evening in the Mariinskiy Palace. In his press statement Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk noted that the talks were held "in a warm and friendly atmosphere." During the conversation, Washington's representatives were told empahtically that the Ukraine favors democracy and radical economic reform, as well as a most speedy reduction in strategic offensive arms. In this connection the Ukraine states its readiness to comply with all the treaties previously concluded between the United States and the former USSR. According to L. Kravchuk, the republic is fully determined to facilitate the speediest destruction of nuclear weapons on its territory. The Ukraine must be nuclear-free.

The U.S. secretary of state voiced his satisfaction with the talks in Kiev. Answering a question from a U.S. correspondent about the future of President Mikhail

Gorbachev, J. Baker stressed that he considers this an internal matter for the CIS and that the White House "has no intention of interfering in the political processes under way in the CIS."

Early in the morning of 19 December Baker left Kiev for Brussels, our special correspondent G. Charodeyev reports.

Belarus

Supreme Soviet Chairman on Alma-Ata Meeting

LD1912213191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1719 GMT 19 Dec 91

[By unidentified BELTA-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Minsk, 19 Dec (TASS)—Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarus Supreme Soviet, believes that the meeting of the leaders of the sovereign republics in Alma-Ata may lead to a noticeable increase in the number of members of the Commonwealth, which will be joined by many republics, whose status will be that of cofounders. Before leaving for the capital of Kazakhstan, he noted today in a conversation with a BELTA correspondent that it is difficult to say whether the Baltic states will be among these.

Speaking about the numerous appeals by Nagorno-Karabakh to be admitted into the Commonwealth, the Belarus parliamentary leader said that he believes in the following principle: Republics with raging interethnic conflicts must resolve them before joining the Commonwealth.

Answering the question on the fate of the president of the former Union, Shushkevich spoke in favor of the most rapid creation of coordinating structures which will allow the subsequent discussion of a position in them for an individual.

Further on Chairman's Comments

LD1912144891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1135 GMT 19 Dec 91

[By correspondent Irina Golubeva]

[Text] Paris, 13 [as received] Dec (TASS)—Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarus Supreme Soviet, feels that the Commonwealth of Independent States should be closed to those republics of the former USSR in which there are interethnic conflicts.

"We are not pushing anyone away, but I am convinced that one ought not to accept into the Commonwealth states warring against each other, and also republics in which there are armed interethnic conflicts," he stated in an interview published today in the Parisian newspaper FIGARO.

To the question as to whether the arrival in Minsk of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was a step on the road to recognizing the sovereignty of the Republic of Belarus, S. Shushkevich answered: "Do you really think that I am so naive? The United States is showing interest in us because our position in the matter of nuclear weapons is extremely clear: Belarus wants to be a nuclear-free, neutral state."

"The Commonwealth, created by Russia, the Ukraine, and Belarus, is based precisely on the independence of each of the states which join it. It contains few common bodies, and those that were set up are of a transitional nature. This Commonwealth was created for those who live in the states which make it up. We are all holding on to the same rope. Some are moving along it more quickly than others, but that is not the main thing. The reality is that we are all on the same cord," stressed S. Shushkevich.

Security Opposes Embassy Bugging Disclosure

OW2012021891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2000 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] The Belarussian security bodies have condemned the USSR Interrepublican Security Service's decision to disclose the bugger scheme of the U.S. embassy to the USSR.

"Whichever the level of inter-state relations may be, we are convinced that information damaging state security cannot be disclosed," says the statement by the Belarussian security agency.

Moldova

Leader Expected To Sign Commonwealth Treaty

OW2012124091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1147 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday morning [20 December], Moldovan President Mr. Mircea Snegur flew out to Alma-Ata to participate in the talks between the leaders of the sovereign republics which have signed or intend to sign the treaty on the Commonwealth of Independent States. The talks are beginning on December 21.

According to trustworthy sources, the Moldovan president intends to sign the Commonwealth treaty.

Defense Department Plans To Establish Army

OW1912151791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moldovan Defense Department plans to spend in 1992 200 million rubles to create a national army. About 12,000 professionals divided in brigades will make up its nucleus. Apart from that, several training centers will be set up to prepare the army reserve.

Moldovan citizens will be able to serve in the army, if they so wish, after concluding a contract. Those unwilling to serve must pass a medical exam for their further transfer to the reserve. They are to take initial course in the training centers during several months.

Snegur Wants Dnestr To Stay Within Republic

OW2012022191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2000 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the IF [INTERFAX] sources close to the Moldovan president, during the talks on Sunday [15 December] with Igor Smirnov, the leader of the Dnestr region, Mircea Snegur resolutely advocated the idea of preserving Moldova's integrity. In experts' estimate, Mr. Snegur did not see any real reasons for setting up a confederative state, but did not rule out the possibility of Moldova's joining the Commonealth and granting the status of a free economic zone to the Dnestr region.

According to the same sources, Mr. Smirnov was satisfied with those pledges and, in his turn, promised to consider Kishinev's proposals. He gave his consent to renounce the idea of secession if the proposal were implemented.

Commonwealth Observers Arrive in Dubossary

LD1912232191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Representatives of the three republics taking part in the Belovezhskaya agreement are setting off today for the town of Dubossary in the Dnestr area, where, as you know, there were clashes on 13 December between the Moldovan police and guardsmen of the Dnestr Republic, which is not recognized by the Moldovan Government. The Belarus observers arrived in Kishinev on 17 December. The Russian and Ukrainian representatives are expected today. They have been invited by Moldovan President Mircea Snegur. They will be joining a local conciliation commission now working in the conflict zone under the leadership of Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister Andrea Sangeli.

Dnestr Paper Criticizes Russian, Ukraine Leaders

LD1912154391 Moscow TASS in English 1514 GMT 19 Dec 91

[By correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Kishinev December 19 TASS—The situation in the Dnestr Republic remains tense after recent clashes between armed groups and local police in the city of Dubossary last week.

The local newspaper DNESTROVSKAYA PRAVDA criticised Russian and Ukrainian leaders for "betraying the Dnestr Republic".

It said St. Petersburg is ready to send "defenders" to the republic, which recently proclaimed its independence from Moldova.

The newspaper reported that groups of cossacks are arriving in the republic.

Ukraine

Kravchuk Reportedly To Attend Alma-Ata Meeting

OW1912211891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2000 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] It has become known to Interfax from well-informed sources that Russia's Vice-Premier Gennadiy Burbulis during his one-day visit to Kiev has been trying to persuade the Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to take part in the Alma-Ata meeting.

By preliminary reports L. Kravchuk agreed after that talk—held on Thursday [19 December] behind closed doors—to attend the Alma-Ata negotiations.

Earlier the Ukrainian President had refused to go to the Kazakh capital which will host on Saturday [21 December] the leaders of the sovereign states, former USSR republics.

During their meeting L. Kravchuk and G. Burbulis also discussed some economic issues including those involved in the coming price liberalization.

Spokesman Predicts Nuclear Weapons Withdrawal

LD1912214791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2007 GMT 19 Dec 91

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Sergey Balykov]

[Text] Kiev, 19 Dec (TASS)—During 1992 nuclear weapons will be withdrawn from Ukrainian territory. This belief was expressed by Major General B. Grechanikov, spokesman for the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, at a news conference for Ukrainian and foreign journalists today. This process is already under way, he said. The work is implemented according to a plan under mutual monitoring by the Ukraine and Russia.

Experts from the United States, Russia, the Ukraine, and the USSR Defense Ministry participating in a seminar on nuclear disarmament issues, which is being held in Kiev now, answered journalists' questions. The organizers of the seminar, the Ukrainian "Znaniye" [Knowledge] society and the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, invited leading specialists on liquidating nuclear weapons. Scholars and practical workers told about their work to ensure a nuclear-free future for the Ukraine, methods for which are elaborated at the seminar by the united efforts of involved parties. A program for the most effective and safe elimination of the nuclear arsenal

is being created, as well as an exchange of opinions with regard to ways and methods for liquidating nuclear means, their transportation outside the Ukraine, storage, stock-taking, and proper control.

Ships Requested for Border, 'Terrorism' Control

LD1912220291 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1920 GMT 19 Dec 91

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Ukraine does not claim all ships of the Black Sea Fleet, says Captain Andrey Lazebnikov, head of the press service of the Black Sea Fleet. According to Captain Lazebnikov, Ukraine would be satisfied with launches, small anti-submarine ships and other small vessels, which would be useful in maintaining the border regime and fighting terrorism. It is supposed that the headquarters and the main base of the Ukrainian navy will be located in Odessa or Ochakov. According to some reports, Admiral Vladimir Chernavin, commander-in-chief of the Soviet Navy, expressed readiness to turn over to Ukraine the needed number of ships and launches which do not carry nuclear weapons on board. Some military experts believe this proposal suits Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Ukrainian Defence Minister Colonel General Konstantin Morozov. The idea is opposed by leaders of some Ukrainian nationalist-minded political organizations, who continue to insist on the turning over of the whole Black Sea's Fleet to Ukraine. They believe that large-size ships could be sold for hard currency. For example, the heavy aircraft carrying cruiser Admiral N.G. Kuznetsov could be sold for 3.5 billion dollars.

Kiev Denies Reported Recognition of Georgia

PM1912142791 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Dec 91 p 2

[N. Mikeladze and O. Musafirova report under the general heading "Georgian Sovereignty at Issue"]

[Text] **Georgia**

"Ukraine—the largest state in Europe and a member of the United Nations—has recognized sovereign and independent Georgia," President Gamsakhurdia told a rally 12 December. "This is the greatest event in the life of our country," he added, "and it means that recognition of Georgia's independence by the whole world is not far off." The news was immediately linked with the correct policy pursued by the president and was received with great enthusiasm. One speaker even exclaimed in Ukrainian "Long live the Ukraine of the Rada!"

Within a couple of days, as always, the opposition announced disagreeable news. Its leader, T. Sigua, reported that recognition had not been confirmed.

Ukraine

B. Tarasyuk, chief of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Political Analysis and Coordination Department, has reported to your correspondent:

"There has been no official act of recognition of Georgia by the Ukraine to date."

Talks To Start on Diplomatic Ties With Georgia

LD2012111491 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1000 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] The Ukraine is demonstrating its policy of complete independence. The minister of foreign affairs has sent an official note to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, which reports that the Presidium of the republic's Supreme Soviet has charged the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with starting talks on establishing diplomatic relations with the Republic of Georgia.

This report was conveyed by the IMPRINDA agency.

Foreign Minister on Relations With Lithuania

LD1912120491 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Excerpt] An exchange of notes on establishing diplomatic relations between the Republic of Lithuania and the Ukraine took place in Kiev yesterday. An agreement was already signed in Lithuania earlier on establishing diplomatic relations between the two states, and from this moment the two sovereign states have mutually recognized each other. Anatoliy Zlenko, the republic's minister of foreign affairs, took part in the ceremony of exchanging notes one behalf of the Ukraine. Algirdas Saudargas, the Lithuanian minister of foreign affairs, took part for the Lithuanian side.

On the same day the Lithuanian delegation was received by Kravchuk, the president of the Ukraine. It had a meeting with Pavlychko, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet Commission for Foreign Affairs. After the official ceremony in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ended, both ministers gave interviews to Ukrainian Radio.

[Begin Zlenko recording] In the first place I would like to say that we exchanged notes which juridically start in full measure the exchange of diplomatic relations and embassies. Then we held negotiations in the course of which we determined possible spheres of cooperation for the very near and for more distant future. We also outlined the range of specific issues that have to be settled at the level of external political departments. We also discussed specific issues of shaping future relations between the Ukraine and Lithuania with the help of a legal mechanism. I am very much satisfied because the great process of recognizing the Ukraine is taking place—such a great process which indicates that interest in the independent Ukraine is increasing. I am very glad because we respond to these countries in the same way. We are now conducting great explanatory work and

opening doors wide for everyone who wishes good and happiness to our people. There are about nine countries that have recognized the Ukraine by now and with which work is being carried out now on establishing diplomatic relations. Argentina is the 10th country that has recognized the Ukraine and in the very near future we will carry out specific work through diplomatic channels in order to establish our diplomatic relations. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Deputies Divided on Commonwealth Decision

PM1912123591 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Dec 91 p 1

[O. Musafirova article: "What Kravchuk Has on His Mind... Is That What Parliament Is Saying?"]

[Text] The talk about the striking metamorphoses that have befallen Leonid Kravchuk literally in the past few weeks is not entirely without foundation. Usually very cautious in his actions and moderate in speech, he has changed his image, as it were. The Ukraine has gotten in the president a leader who is consistently severe toward things still called the center. The weak position of chairman of the Supreme Soviet has given way to the offensive strategy of a man in charge of a large and independent Slav power. It seems that he has decided not only to be Gorbachev's political "grave digger," having openly accused him of causing the disintegration of the state in a process that began with perestroyka, but also to place Yeltsin on the pedestal of popular sympathies.

The president and his team are without an opposition. After the proclamation of independence, the People's Council considered it had exhausted its functions. Its leader, Igor Yukhnovskiy, submitted his resignation, and the faction's voluntary disbandment is expected by the day. The pillars of Rukh [Ukrainian Independence Movement] have publicly stated that the time for throwing rocks at Kravchuk is over. The time has come to form a new party of power around Kravchuk—formed partly from the nomenklatura, the state bureaucracy, and the trade unions and partly from the democratic stratum. The platform for the unification of such diverse forces is escape from the "hand of Moscow."

Thus from the conclusion of the triple alliance in the Belovezhskaya Forest, Rukh chairman Ivan Drach even suggested a coat of arms for the Commonwealth—the "trident" ["trizube"] signified the realization of several tasks at once. First, an "attack" on the Kremlin from the rear with "lethal" consequences for the USSR and its power hierarchy. Second, insurance against the upheavals connected with the liberalization of prices in Russia, at least for a while, to enable the young independent entity to gain a little flesh. Third, the removal from the Ukraine of the suspicions of separatism and isolationism. And then? Then there are a number of options.

The first is the optimistic one. Aleksandr Yemets, head of the parliamentary human rights commission and a trained lawyer, is convinced that the logic of asserting a new order usually cuts across existing law. If the USSR Constitution had not been violated, the Ukraine would not have its own state now. Therefore the Commonwealth is a propitious and revolutionary path of development. However, the agreement, in Yeltsin's opinion, should have stipulated that the "CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] is not a state or a subject of international legal relations and does not need to be recognized by foreign states. It is a commonwealth with a small c, not a capital C."

One of the most vigorous propagandists of the expediency of the "Belovezhskaya Trio" is Dmitro Pavlychko, head of the foreign affairs commission, an implacable opponent of Supreme Soviet Chairman Kravchuk and a former counselor to Kravchuk the president. He regards the Commonwealth primarily as an economic alliance, certainly not a political or military one. And he sees the 12 amendments with which the Ukrainian parliament ratified the document as the insurance of the Ukraine's independence.

"I do not think that the Commonwealth will last long. It is more a formation for the transitional period," Dmitro Vasilyevich admitted. Like 287 other delegates out of the 367 present, though, he voted "for," of course.

The second option is the cautious one. Its typical representative is Aleksandr Moroz, head of the former Communist majority in the parliament and now chairman of the socialist party. He diplomatically calls the new Commonwealth "better than nothing or better than the way things used to be" and does not think that Kravchuk's character and position have changed.

The third option is the pessimistic one. There are 10 people in parliament who share this view, headed by Deputy Stepan Khmara, who voted categorically against the ratification of the agreement: "We have no farsighted politicians here—this is the Ukraine's calamity and curse. What we are seeing is an attempt to cobble together a new empire, no better and perhaps worse than the Soviet empire."

Khmara believes that "Yeltsin wants to deceive the Ukraine and is not even hiding his intentions, whereas Gorbachev is sacrificing his post for the sake of preserving the Union. If we do not come to our senses soon...."

There is another significant factor. It is the Ukrainian side which is insisting on a commonwealth of "independent states." The retention of the thesis on the independence of the states in a commonwealth which has only coordinating structures is, by all accounts, most important for Kravchuk.

Although, in the words of press secretary Vladimir Shlyaposhnikov, the president's assessment of the results of the Ashkhabad meeting was exclusively positive. However, it seems that he has no intention of going to Alma-Ata, because he does not see a role and place for himself there.

Law Provides Foreign Investment Guarantees

OW2012045391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1155 GMT 19 Dec 91

["Business Weekly" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukraine has enacted a Law on Foreign Investment which, in the opinion of experts, conforms to international standards and provides sufficient guarantees for investors, including foreign investors.

The law stipulates that investments may be in the form of money; special-purpose bank deposits; shares, stocks and other securities; buildings, facilities, equipment and other material values; technical, technological, and commercial expertise in the form of technical documents.

Investment activities may be undertaken by foreign citizens, legal entities, and states.

Investment activity may involve fixed and current capital in all sectors of the economy, securities, special-purpose money deposits, know-how, intellectual property.

Investors may perform the roles of depositors, creditors, buyers, etc.

Specific rules for the conduct of investment activities by foreign investors on the republic's territory, as well as by Ukrainian investors on the territory of free enterprise zones are set out in the republic's legislation.

ALL INVESTORS HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS. All investors, irrespective of type of ownership, have equal rights to invest their funds in any objects, except for those expressly prohibited by the law just enacted.

The investor has the discretion to transfer the right of ownership, management or administration of investments to other individuals or legal entities.

Loans and other financial assets may be obtained, and securities may be issued by the investor to carry out investment activity.

Investors have the right to use their investments and returns on investments as they see fit, including reinvestment and trade transactions on the territory of the Ukraine.

Investors have the right to acquire property from individual citizens, legal entities and the state either directly or through intermediaries at prices suitable for both sides.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF INVESTORS. Investors should follow established procedures in furnishing declarations on investments made to the proper financial agencies, and in conducting examinations of investment projects as to their technological, sanitary, radiation and environmental hazards. Investors should maintain standard documentation prescribed by the state, submit information to governmental agencies according to their terms of reference, refrain from unfair competition and observe antimonopoly legislation.

REGULATION OF INVESTMENT. To engage in specific activities, investors should obtain a license. The state regulates investment activities through economic, technological and social measures. The state guarantees stable environment for investment activity, as well as the rights and lawful interests of investors. The terms of contracts betveen investors may not be altered prior to expiry of these contracts unless both parties concur in it. Governmental agencies and their subdivisions may not interfere in the economic activities of investors, except for cases provided for by law. No one may encroach upon the right of the investor to choose an object for investment activity. Should a governmental agency or some other body adopt decisions encroaching upon the rights of investors, any losses sustained by the investor are to be reimbursed by the entity found guilty. Cases for damages are to be tried in a court of justice or court of arbitration.

THE STATE GUARANTEES PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS OF ALL TYPES OF OWNERSHIP, INCLUDING FOREIGN INVESTMENTS. Protection of investments is ensured by the republic's legislation and its agreements with the sovereign republics and foreign countries. Investors, including foreign investors, are ensured equitable treatment, including protection from the expropriation of their right of ownership, management and administration of property, and guarantees of unrestricted repatriation of funds invested and returns on investments.

INVESTMENTS MAY NOT BE NATIONALISED OR REQUISITIONED WITHOUT REIMBURSEMENT. Such measures may only be taken in compliance with the republic's enactments, with the investor entitled to full reimbursement of losses sustained. In case the above measures are employed, the money placed in bank deposits or expended to buy stocks and securities, or to acquire or lease property is returned to investors, less the sums expended as a result of their actions or with their participation.

Disputes arising in the course of investment activities are to be settled in a court of justice or court of arbitration.

In cases provided for by the law, investments may be insured.

The payment of fines for violation of contracts does not relieve the guilty party from obligations arising from these contracts.

If the rules for the conduct of investment activities, which are set out in the Ukraine's international agreements, differ from those established by the republic's legislation, the legal norms of the international agreements shall prevail.

Decision Issued To Create Herta District

AU1912152691 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1221 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 19/12/1991—Under a decision of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine in response to demands by residents of the Cernauti [Chernovtsy] Region the district of Herta was created where most of the people are Moldovans, MOLDOVA PRES reports adding that they did not say whether the respective district would become a national district.

Armenia

President Leaves for Alma-Ata Meeting

OW1912214291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2000 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Armenian President's working group led by his national security adviser Ashot Manucharyan left by air for Alma-Ata last night.

President Levon Ter-Petrosyan told Armenian parliament Wednesday [18 December] that the group will prepare there the needed documents for signing the agreement on a Commonwealth of Independent States appointed for Dec 21.

The President will fly to Alma-Ata probably on Friday [20 December].

Diplomatic Relations Established With Romania

NC1812180791 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Yerevan, 18 Dec (ARMENPRES)—The agreement establishing diplomatic relations between the Armenian Republic and Romania and the protocol on cooperation between the Armenian and Romanian foreign ministries were signed at a ceremony at the Romanian Foreign Ministry in Bucharest on 18 December.

Romania is the second country to establish diplomatic relations with Armenia, following Lithuania.

The Armenian Republic's foreign minister, Raffi Hovhannesyan, signed the agreement and protocol for Armenia. Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase signed on behalf of Romania.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry reported that in addition to Armenia, Romania has also recognized the independence of the former Soviet republics of Russia, the Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Moldova, Georgia, and Azerbaijan. To date, diplomatic relations have been established only with Armenia.

During the signing ceremony, the Armenian and Romanian foreign ministers praised the political processes taking place in the former USSR republics and, in their wake, the development of new international relations. It was noted that with the establishment of diplomatic relations between the nations, new opportunities will be provided to strengthen and deepen the historic Romanian-Armenian ties. In addition, the agreement will augment the comprehensive development of contacts on all levels in the political, economic, and cultural spheres.

Romania sees the establishment of diplomatic relations with Armenia as an important step in the former's foreign policy. The media there is extensively covering the issue.

Hovhannesyan and Deputy Foreign Minister Arman Navasardyan were received by Romanian President Ion Iliescu, Prime Minister Theodor Stolojan, and ministers of foreign affairs, trade, tourism, and culture. During negotiations and talks, the officials discussed issues pertaining to current international political life, the state of affairs in the former Soviet Union, and matters on developing Armenian-Romanian relations. During his contacts, the Armenian foreign minister informed his interlocutors on the latest events in Nagorno-Karabakh. The sides carefully discussed the possibilities of resolving this fundamental problem.

The Armenian foreign minister held a news conference for Romanian and foreign reporters in the evening.

Before flying to Latin America for a working visit there, Raffi Hovhannesyan met the representatives of the Armenian community in Romania on 18 December.

Azerbaijan

President To Attend Alma-Ata Meeting

OW1912212991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2000 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The President of Azerbaijan Ayaz Mutalibov will take part in the Alma-Ata meeting of the former union republics to discuss the prospects of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The decision was announced on Thursday [19 December] by the head of the president's press service Rasim Agayev at a briefing in Baku. The Alma-Ata meeting, he said, is extremely important for all the republics. Azerbaijan will try to specify some clauses in the treaty, particularly the status of the Union forces deployed in the republic, also a settlement for Karabakh, and some economic issues involved in Russia's reforms.

Replying to a question by Interfax the president's adviser on ethnic issues Rasim Musabekov said president Mutalibov had authority to sign the agreement on the Commonwealth, but further it should be ratified by National Council of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet.

It was declared at the press-conference that a study of the Commonwealth agreement text shows no contradiction to the principles of the sovereign republics' independence.

Leader's Attendance Explained

LD1912222491 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1700 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov will take part in the Alma-Ata meeting. Rasim Musabekov, the Azerbaijani president's adviser on interethnic issues, disclosed this at a briefing.

[Begin Musabekov recording] Azerbaijan will take part in the meeting of the heads of independent states to take place in Alma-Ata. I believe that the reasons are quite

clear. An issue of vital importance to all independent republics of the former USSR will be examined there. Our participation is objectively necessary. Moreover, the issue of some sort of coordinating bodies will be tackled. All of us are still interconnected strongly and clearly will remain interconnected for a long time. The issue of the fate of the Army of the former USSR, deployed on the territory of republics, also will be tackled. Regardless of whether Azerbaijan joins the agreement, this issue cannot but worry all states on whose territory these troops are deployed.

The president is going to the meeting with the intention of joining this Commonwealth because, objectively, it meets Azerbaijan's interests. Bearing in mind the rather high level of integration in the economic field, the proximity of political interests, and traditional cultural ties, all this determines the long-term future of cooperation, close cooperation, of the republics that used to form the USSR. Second, I believe that the recognition of Azerbaijan's independence can be facilitated by means of this sort of Commonwealth and by means of joining the world community. [end recording]

'Respect' for UN Resolutions on Cyprus Noted

NC1912205891 Nicosia Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Greek 2000 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov said that his republic has full respect for the provisions of international law and all UN resolutions, including those concerning the Cyprus problem. Mutalibov made this statement at a meeting with Cypriot Ambassador in Moscow Kharalambo Kristoforou.

Khristoforou also held meetings with the Azerbaijani prime minister, foreign minister, and the parliament deputy chairman. All Azerbaijani officials stressed that they desire friendly relations with the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

Former NKAO Commander Urges Troop Withdrawal

LD2012114691 Moscow TASS in English 0808 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Moscow December 19 TASS—The number of people killed in the Nagorno-Karabakh disputed enclave has grown fivefold this year, while the number of wounded people has increased sixfold, Boris Maksin, former military commandant of the region, said.

In an interview with the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper on Thursday [19 December], he said the number of casualties among soldiers has grown twofold this year. Maksin stressed the situation is being compounded by the political chaos in the country, which puts Russian Interior Ministry troops between a rock and the hard place.

He said the troops were brought into Azerbaijan under a decree adopted by the Soviet parliament. But now that Azerbaijan and Armenia have proclaimed independence, the troops should be pulled out, since there are no legal grounds to justify their presence in the region, Maksin said.

Interior Ministry Servicemen Targeted

LD1912235591 Moscow TASS in English 2215 GMT 19 Dec 91

[By correspondents Vadim Byrkin and Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow December 19 TASS—Three servicemen of Interior Ministry troops—Captain Aleksandr Leonov, Private Yuriy Dyachenko and Private Samim Kayumov—were killed in Nagorno-Karabakh over the past five days. In all, 16 servicemen were killed in the state-of-emergency area this year, a spokesman at the office of the commander of USSR Interior Ministry troops told TASS. Most of the servicemen were killed from ambush, he added.

Unlawful actions against the equipment of Interior Ministry troops are being continued. The training centre of a military unit was captured in Agdam district of Azerbaijan. The formation of Azerbaijani Army units has been started there. Families who live on the territory of the training centre have been ordered to vacate their houses within 24 hours. Combat hardware of Interior Ministry troops is being seized.

Colonel General Vasiliy Savvin, commander of Interior Ministry troops, addressed the Azerbaijani ministers of the interior and defence, expressing concern over the unlawful actions with regard to servicemen.

Soviet Troops Explain Difficulties

AU2012100491 Paris AFP in English 0753 GMT 20 Dec 91

[By Stephane Bentura]

[Text] Stepanakert, Nagorno Karabakh, Dec 20 (AFP)—Soviet Interior Ministry troops, previously associated with the crackdown on independence movements, have been given the unenviable task of acting as a peacekeeping force in the strife-torn enclave of Nagorno Karabakh. But they are finding themselves powerless to intervene as the bullets fly between Armenians, the majority who are seeking to rejoin the nearby Armenian republic, and Azeris determined to keep the enclave under Azerbaijani jurisdiction.

Interior Ministry troops achieved notoriety earlier this year in violent but vain attempts to suppress nationalist aspirations in the Baltic republics. Now, entrenched in observation points or holed up in their armoured vehicles, they are having to keep their heads down.

The Azeris control the high ground overlooking Kyrgyzhan, the southern suburb of the capital Stepanakert, where eight Soviet troops posted precariously on a hillside attempt to keep the belligerents apart.

The gunfire tends often to pass too close for comfort, particularly at night when the two sides attempt to gain ground.

"We only fire back if the shooting gets too close, just to warn them to ease off," a bullet-proof vest-wearing lieutenant explains. "What can we do? When it gets too dangerous, we order the men back into town until the morning."

High on the ridge of the hill a large white building is burning. "That was the headquarters of the Azerbaijani special forces," a member of the Don division says. "The Armenians scored a direct hit with heavy artillery."

At that moment a "crocodile"—the nickname of the Soviet MI-24 assault helicopter—passes overhead.

"That's an army chopper. Interior Ministry troops don't have anything like that," Captain Igor Gorbach, a veteran of ethnic conflicts, explains.

"I've got just 3,000 men to cover the whole of the Karabakh. I had 11,000 at the start of the year. And with conscription tailing off, I'll soon be down to 1,500. If we don't have the means, and we don't have the order to act in depth, how can we carry out our job," a superior officer adds bitterly.

The Interior Ministry troops are installed in the former regional committee headquarters, where a statue of Lenin has somehow survived the assault on other symbols of communist rule.

They face a regular assault from Alazan weather rockets, transformed into ground-to-ground missiles by the Azerbaijanis who loose off several hundred a day. So far they have lost 24 men killed and more than 80 wounded.

The adversaries they are attempting to keep apart become better armed with every passing month. "If we fire on them, the Azerbaijanis reply with Rapira multiple-rocket launchers they've bought on the black market from the Soviet army. Our light armoured vehicles have to face Azerbaijani special forces whose RPG-9 ammunition can pierce the armour of a T-72 tank."

The Interior Ministry troops are all the more bewildered in that the Soviet army, which oversees the frontiers of the enclave, has the means to intervene but not the orders. Army machine-guns only come into play if barracks come under fire.

"My men lack bread and my armoured vehicles are down to a few litres of petrol," the superior officer complains.

"We need more vehicles, reinforcements, a rear base and supplies. The problem is that Moscow wants to forget about the problem.

"The sense of duty has its limits. Why should my men get themselves killed for 50 rubles a month? I'm virtually a hostage here. But if we go, in three weeks you'll have a bloodbath. What can 200,000 Armenians do against eight million Azerbaijanis. There would be another Armenian genocide," the officer warned.

Interior Ministry Training Center Seized

LD1912215691 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1920 GMT 19 Dec 91

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] On December 17, Azerbaijani armed units seized the training center of one of USSR Interior Ministry's military units in Agdam region. Members of the families inhabiting the training center were offered to leave the dwellings within 24 hours. The creation of units of Azerbaijani army have been started on the basis of the center. An Azerbaijani republican representative, who called himself Colonel Mirzoyev, in his talk with Colonel Grigory Fomenko, regional commandant's office chief, made threats with respect to servicemen and the Russian-speaking population. A military vehicle and a group of Soviet Army servicemen have been captured by the Azerbaijani side. It was declared that they will be released and brought to their military unit as soon as the Armenian side free the Azerbaijani hostages.

Soviet Tanks for 'Scrap' Handed to Republic

LD2012100791 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 13 Dec 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Dudayev, the Chechen leader, has proposed the creation of a Caucasus confederation along the lines of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha agreements. Meanwhile, the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict shows no sign of abating. Both sides continue to accuse each other of behaving aggressively. [Video shows tanks parked in large, walled enclosure.]

[Correspondent K. Zakharyan] A few days ago, Seven Days, a news program on Azerbaijan TV, screened a report on combat vehicles that have been written off by the Soviet Armed Forces and handed over by the military to a scrapyard belonging to the republican association for the recycling of ferrous metals and the engineering works, named after the unforgettable Georgiy Dimitrov, located in Karadagskiy Rayon of the city of Baku. The armored vehicles which you see here were melted down by the aforementioned enterprise for processing into scrap, so to speak, by a neighboring military unit. The price per vehicle was a mere 1,000 Soviet rubles—wooden ones to put it mildly. You can judge for yourself what kind of scrap this is. Is this how tanks fall, after suitable cosmetic treatment, into the hands of the Azerbaijan OMON [special purpose militia detachment], who use them against Armenians in the conflict zone? According to latest information, they are being used in Shaumyanovskiy Rayon, among other places.

Soldiers Captured by Azeris Still Missing

OW2012011991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The whereabouts of 12 Soviet servicemen captured by the Azeris on Tuesday [17 December] outside Agdam, a city located close to Nagorno-Karabakh, is still unknown. The men were charged with supplying Armenian militants with gasoline.

Northern Cypriot Aid Meets Nakichevan Official

LD2012095891 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 0302 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] According to a report issued by the press center of the Nakichevan Supreme Soviet, Heydar Alitev, chairman of the Nakhichevan Supreme Soviet, met with Ahmet Kadioglu, an adviser to the president [of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus]. Ahmet Kaioglu conveyed the greetings of President Rauf Denktas to the chairman of the Supreme Soviet and officially invited him on behalf of the president to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. During the talks, economic, cultural, and [words indistinct] and it was pointed out that it was necessary to create relations between the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Providing education to a group of young people from Nakhichevan at universities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus will be the first step in this direction.

Georgia

Ukraine To Hold Talks on Mutual Recognition

OW1912211391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2000 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgia intends to send a delegation to Kiev for talks on establishing diplomatic relations with the Ukraine in their entirety, Georgia's permanent representatives in Moscow announced.

Proposal to begin such talks was set forth in a message received by the Georgian foreign ministry from the foreign ministry of the Ukraine on December 17.

Assault Planned on Tskhinvali, S. Ossetia

LD2012115691 Moscow TASS in English 1119 GMT 20 Dec 91

[By correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz December 20 TASS—Sporadic shooting was heard on distant approaches to Tskhinvali and in Znauri district last night, reports from Southern Ossetia indicate. It came from the Georgian villages of Nikozi, Tamarasheni, Prisi and Eredvi. No casualties were reported.

According to commander of the South Ossetian armed forces Colonel Oleg Teziev, the lull in the hottest crisis spots of the region is explained not only by the state of emergency, announced by the Supreme Soviet of the South Ossetian Republic, which proved to be a stabilising factor in the region, but also by the new tactic adopted by the Georgian side. Armed units and military hardware are being massed around Tskhinvali and nearby villages. The town is waiting for an assault. Steps are being taken to repulse it. There are obvious plans to storm the town, since Georgian militants see that no intimidations can break the will of its defenders.

In the meantime, Tskhinvali is in critical need of food, medicines and prime neccessities due to the Georgian blockade. The shops and the local bakery factory are closed. There are frequent interruptions in power, gas and water supply. There is no heating in dwelling houses and public buildings.

During the past three days Georgian armed units, active in Tskhinvali and Znauri districts, have taken 17 Ossetian hostages, pillaged and burned 22 dwellings, rustled cattle and seized crops.

Paramilitary Guards at Fuel Depot Disarmed

LD1912211691 Moscow TASS in English 2001 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] Tbilisi December 19 TASS—According to a report by a spokesman for the military commandant's office of Tbilisi garrison, paramilitary guards at the district fuel depot were disarmed in Tbilisi at about two a.m. on December 18. Unidentified persons stole three carbines and one pistol.

Kazakhstan

U.S. Secretary Baker, Nazarbayev Hold Meeting

PM2012085591 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Dec 91 First Edition p 3

[KAZTAG correspondents A. Magzumov and G. Kulagin report, especially for KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: "J. Baker's In-Depth Fact-Finding in Kazakhstan. Meeting With President Nazarbayev Held in Alma-Ata"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker arrived on a brief working visit in Alma-Ata on 17 December. The U.S. secretary of state had a talk with Republic of Kazakhstan President N. Nazarbayev which lasted more than two hours. A news conference was arranged when it finished.

Answering journalists' questions, N. Nazarbayev noted that close and friendly contacts had been established between him and the secretary of state. This is J. Baker's second visit to Kazakhstan within a short space of time. Moreover, they constantly keep in touch by phone and consult each other on extremely important questions of interstate relations.

On this occasion considerable attention was focused on the situation in the country following the famous meeting in Belarus. The sides discussed a number of problems that have arisen as a result of the new realities and the proclamation of state independence by Kazakhstan and other former Union republics, as well as several possible variants of the way events might develop and the prospects for economic cooperation.

N. Nazarbayev announced that a meeting of the leaders of at least nine republics was scheduled to be held in Alma-Ata 21 December, at which he hopes that their positions will be aligned on the basis of the proposals put forward in Ashkhabad. The Kazakh side intends to raise the question of concluding an agreement between the four states on whose territory Soviet nuclear weapons are located in order to guarantee unified control and verification and also the nonproliferation of this arsenal. It is essential to dispel the international community's concern on this score. At any rate, there is an understanding with RSFSR President B. Yeltsin that nuclear weapons will remain in Russia and Kazakhstan.

Regarding the question of whether the RSFSR will claim the Security Council seat currently held by the USSR once it has joined the United Nations, the president stressed that when the Commonwealth of Independent States is definitively established, their heads will decide this problem jointly.

The journalists were interested in N. Nazarbayev's opinion on what role might be given to M.S. Gorbachev in the nascent structures. Noting that he, Gorbachev, is a historic figure, the Kazakh president said he had always supported the processes of perestroyka that Gorbachev started, and it is Gorbachev's own business to define his role in these structures.

The head of the U.S. foreign policy department, speaking at the press conference, stressed the great usefulness and fruitfulness of his constant contacts with the Kazakh president. Referring to the nuclear problem, J. Baker said that this had been discussed extensively and in detail at the present meeting and especially those aspects associated with the transformations of this process. Kazakhstan is indisputably playing a key role in this process, as is its head Nazarbayev.

The secretary of state informed journalists that the question of U.S. recognition of the independent Republic of Kazakhstan was also being examined today on a preliminary basis. Regarding the Ukraine, Belarus, and other former member states of the USSR, this will be decided by the U.S. side on the basis of appropriate statements and the well-known five principles put forward by the U.S. side, which, incidentally, are shared by President Nazarbayev.

The U.S. secretary of state flew from Minsk in the morning of 18 December.

Nazarbayev on Commonwealth, Alma-Ata Meeting

PM1912233791 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 20 Dec 91 p 2

[Interview with Kazakhstan President N. Nazarbayev by Ye. Dotsuk: "Nazarbayev: I Would Not Have Signed the Document in Minsk"—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Last night, after his working day, Kazakhstan President N. Nazarbayev agreed to answer KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's questions on the upcoming meeting of heads of independent states in Alma-Ata on 20-21 December.

[Dotsuk] Nursultan Abishevich, you were not in Minsk at the signing of the agreement on the Commonwealth. Do you think anything would have changed had you been there?

[Nazarbayev] Whether I was there or not is not the fundamental question. My signature would not have appeared on the document, but had I been there, I would have tried to persuade the particpants in the Minsk meeting to have consultations with all potential members of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] and only then adopt a decision.

It is a matter of assessing the real situation. The processes of the sovereignization of the former Soviet republics are growing quickly; practically all of them have declared their independence, so they are expecting to be regarded as equal partners, equal members of any agreement—economic, political, defense, and in all other spheres of interstate relations. Particularly as we are talking about a question of fundamental importance—what kind of future commonwealth it will be! I am delighted that the heads of state who met in Minsk proposed that the agreement should be seen as an initiative, open to discussion by all other republics. Also

of no mean significance was the desire finally to embark upon some constructive activity, to interrupt the overlong "dead season" in our own common home.

[Dotsuk] But might not all the problems be due to the wounded pride of the leaders of the republics that have been given an "associate" role, rather than in the central issue? If so, can pride be forgone, if the future of the state is at stake?

[Nazarbayev] Pride does not come into it. Incidentally, I do not know what is better—to be a cofounder or an associate on certain conditions. You can be a cofounder with all the responsibility it implies, or you can be an "associate," specifying a status that retains total freedom of action. Because we all are equal entities, which are supposed to be responsible not only for the fate of our own republics but also for the community as a whole, including the world community, then we must adopt a proper approach to our own decisions. The treaty process must be civilized and strictly legal.

[Dotsuk] It is late in the evening in Alma-Ata at the moment, and the heads of state arrive tomorrow. There was a report recently that 11 leaders will be coming, but then there was a rumor that Kravchuk and Shushkevich would not be comoing. So nothing is clear at the moment. The danger of the country's splitting into "Muslim" and "Slav" formations keeps arising. How do you view that prospect, and how real is it? Where would Kazakhstan's loyalties lie in that case because it is nearly one-half non-Muslim?

[Nazarbayev] If we fail to stand firm and end up taking the path of a Slav-Muslim split, I believe that the whole world will be appalled. It must not be allowed to happen. To divide along ethnic and religious lines is to go back to the Stone Age. As for [Belarussian Supreme Soviet Chairman] S. Shushkevich and [Ukrainian President] L. Kravchuk, they must come to Alma-Ata because they are the heads of nuclear states and this is the paramount question we have to discuss. Incidentally, I have in front of me the schedule for the presidents' arrival. Kravchuk arrives tomorrow, 20 December, at 1730 Alma-Ata time, and Shushkevich 30 minutes after him.

As for where Kazkahstan's loyalties lie, I believe we have to live in peace with everyone. Obviously, to join one or the other formation would have an equally adverse effect as far as the people of Kazakhstan are concerned, and I will make every effort to ensure that it does not happen.

Nazarbayev on Economy, Republic's Future

NC1912143091 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 16 Dec 91 p 7

["Exclusive" interview with President Nursultan Nazarbayev by CUMHURIYET correspondent Fatih Yilmaz in Alma Ata; date not given]

[Text] [Yilmaz] Can you explain the way you see Kazakhstan's future? Do you believe it will achieve economic independence?

[Nazarbayev] Kazakhstan believes that its future is linked with that of all the other republics. It cannot be regarded separately, but we have to improve its situation. That is why we are looking for solutions, particularly economic. We plan to adopt a free market economy and the only model we have is Turkey's. I must emphasize that we regard Turkey as our economic hope. The Republic of Korea [as published] is a neighbor, but our historic ties with Turkey and its achievements in a short period have convinced us we should give priority to the Western world. When Kazakhstan overcomes its economic crisis it will be a center attracting the countries around it. We believe that we should be using our own resources after 70 years, but we will not be chauvinistic.

[Yilmaz] Does Kazakhstan's large Slavic population make you uneasy? Yeltsin hinted after August's coup attempt that he may use it as a trump card.

[Nazarbayev] We live in friendship in Kazakhstan. There has been no major problem. There was an appropriate reply to Yeltsin's statement, that these lands belong to the Kazakh people and we shall not allow any attempt to create discord. We have already made this known. We also hold several trump cards—this is common knowledge—but we do not wish such a state of affairs to emerge. No one stands to gain from it. We believe in fraternal peoples. We are not prepared to allow our people to be dominated by other peoples or countries. We are for friendship and peace. That is why we have opposed the recent splits, which may disrupt peace and drag the country into chaos. I am convinced that the Soviet Union will continue in a new form in which every republic will respect the others' rights. The Soviet system may have come to an end but it is leading us toward a new structure, a system based on dialogue. This has created the need for a policy which allows alternatives, unlike central policy. Regardless of events so far, I am hopeful. Better days are ahead.

[Yilmaz] There is an awakening in Central Asia; hatred toward the Russian population; and a strengthening Islamic trend, while pan-Turkic views are emerging in Kazakhstan and the other republics in Central Asia. What do you think about this?

[Nazarbayev] People must be able to think what they wish and choose their own religion. No one's freedom must be pushed aside through pressure. I do not believe that Islam will pose a threat to Kazakhstan. On the contrary, I believe that it will be useful. The Kazakh people do not blindly believe in anything, so a radical Islamic trend cannot be established in Kazakhstan. Let us again turn to Turkey. We regard its secular system as a model for Kazakhstan. The mentality of Kazakhstan's people is inclined toward secularism. State and religious affairs are separate. This reveals why Turkey is so important for Kazakhstan. Pan-Turkic views are linked

with reaction against the Soviet Administration and our being forced to remain in the background these past 70 years. They do not represent significant chauvinism. It is obvious pan-Turkism cannot apply in Kazakhstan. The people want to have a good life, dress well, and embrace global cultures. Anyone who proposed "we should turn back and realize the concept of Turkism" would have no chance of success. Developments cannot be obstructed.

Most Kazakh youths like rock music. Traditional Kazakh musical instruments have been placed on the shelves. When the people of Turkic origin move to establish cultural ties they should consider these factors. I am opposed to any move aimed at creating a new structure for the people for the sake of a Turkic or an Islamic world. Any such effort will not succeed. The people of Turkic origin can more easily share common values and draw closer. This will not be dangerously chauvinistic.

[Yilmaz] You wish to adopt the Latin alphabet. Does this not draw you away from the concept of union which you support?

[Nazarbayev] It does not. We already had the Latin alphabet. Using it will help us draw closer to the Western world. We plan to cooperate with Turkey on this. An alphabet is being drawn up. We shall implement it with the Turkish Ministry of Culture. Agreement has already been reached. In the new system being established in the Soviet Union the republics will be free to run their internal affairs. This does not mean that the Russian language and Cyrillic alphabet will be abandoned. Everyone can talk in Russian in Kazakhstan.

[Yilmaz] Do you believe that the Turkic republics and Turkey can establish a common market?

[Nazarbayev] This is of secondary importance. First, the Soviet republics must reach agreement. Once they have, the republics will turn to the alternatives which will strengthen their economy. They may establish mutual economic relations or become members of a number of organizations. This is not impossible. The new union allows this. The Central Asian republics took a step in this direction last summer. We must sit around a table and talk. President Ozal has proposed a Black Sea cooperation zone. We are interested. We are open to any kind of economic activity. No one stands to gain from the idea that only Turkic communities should join an economic establishment. We will take part in such an economic market. We can also take part in any common market which may be established in Asia and the Pacific region.

Rally Marks 'Day of Democratic Renewal'

LD2012114891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1435 GMT 17 Dec 91

[By KAZTAG correspondent Murat Buldekbayev—TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 17 Dec (TASS)—A meeting of thousands of people was held today in Republic Square to mark the Day of Democratic Renewal of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the fifth anniversary of the 1986 events. Five years ago in this same square, in the spirit of the ideological postulates and antihuman canons that then operated, troops were set against a peaceful demonstration of young people who were protesting against the diktat of the center. History—the most objective judge—has put everything in its place: the label of "Kazakh nationalism" has been removed from a people which has always been noted for its true, rather than pretentious, internationalism; the participants in those events have been rehabilitated; and the awards received for the suppression of the demonstrators have been deemed illegal.

Those assembled were addressed by Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan has become different now, the president said. On the eve of the Day of Democratic Renewal the republic's parliament declared the republic to be an independent state. It has embarked firmly upon the path of the market economy and the construction of a democratic and law-governed state, in which everyone, irrespective of nationality and faith and party adherence, is guaranteed full civil rights and freedoms.

People's deputies of the country and of the republic and representatives of various parties and social movements who spoke at the rally called upon those present to protect civil concord.

Kyrgyzstan

Deputies' Representative on Commonwealth Accord

OW2012015191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2000 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chairman of the Kyrgyz group of deputies in the USSR Supreme Soviet Jumagul Sadanbekov has expressed in his address to his republic's parliament his negative attitude to the agreement between Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia on a new Commonwealth.

In the opinion of D. Sadanbekov "if Russia acts like that without the USSR Supreme Soviet, it makes a bad precedent".

The deputy also criticized Russia's government for attempts to nationalize the Union property and urged parliament not to recall deputies from the USSR Supreme Soviet before the end of talks in Alma-Ata.

Tajikistan

President Reduces State Structures 40 Percent

LD1912231791 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Here is a report from Tajikistan. A large-scale action for reducing the governing apparatus of all state structures has been started. Tajikistan President Rakhman Nabiyev sets an example. He has ordered the reduction of his apparatus by 40 percent and expressed the hope that the leaders of ministries, state committees, and departments will put their own structures of power in order without awaiting a directive from above. Thus, the example has already been set.

Socialist Party To Return to Former Name

LD1912221291 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1815 GMT 19 Dec 91

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Socialist Party of Tajikistan will be given back its previous name—Communist Party of Tajikistan, says Vakhid Khodzhiyev, first secretary of the Dushanbe committee of the former republican Communist Party. Khodzhiyev also confirmed the rumors circulated in the parliamentary circles to the effect that Nurullo Khubaydullayev, member of parliament, public prosecutor of the republic and former head of the legal department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Tajikistan, is going to address the session of the Republican Supreme Soviet (parliament). He is going to state that the Tajik Communist Party had nothing to do with actions of the State Emergency Committee. In the opinion of Khodzhiyev, aside from returning the previous name to it, the Communist Party will be reinstated in all its property rights.

Democratic Party Plans To Work 'in Opposition'

OW2012045291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2000 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Democratic Party of Tajikistan will be in opposition to the republic's government, its Chairman Shodmon Yusupov said at a press-conference in Dushanbe. With that, the party will not try to hamper the government's reforms aimed at introducing market economy.

The Democratic Party, went on Sh. Yusupov, will defend the rights and freedoms, the openness in society, and will seek their restoration in cases of violations.

President Orders Establishment of New Region

LD2012112791 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2152 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] On December 19 Tajikistan President Nabiyev orders the republican Cabinet of Ministers to establish a new region. A new region will be named Karoteginskaya after the valley, where mountainous districts of republican subordination are located, and this is their current official status. During the recent presidential election campaign, residents of Karoteginskaya group of districts demanded the aspirants to eliminate existing disproportions in social, economic and industrial development between Leninabad region and the rest of the republic's regions. The establishment of Karotegionskaya region represents the basic demand of the districts—stronghold of official spiritual leaders and Islamic party revival of Tajikistan.

At the last presidential elections, in contrast to many other regions, in Karoteginskaya cluster of regions Nabiyev received minimum votes, since 90 of the polled had cast their votes for Davlat Khudonazarov, chairman of cinematographers' confederation of the former USSR. According to local observers Nabiyev's prestige will be hardly improved, even in case the basic demand of Karatoginskaya area residents—establishment of their region,—is met. Officials speculate that the next step could involve transferring the region into an independent political entity, which would unite the former Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region, which has recently declared its republican status, in opposing the republican center.

Supplies of Essential Goods 'Suddenly Stopped'

LD2012113191 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] The question of preventing the illegal removal of food, goods, and materials out of the republic was presented today to Nazrullo Dustov, vice president of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Supplies of essential goods and agricultural products to inhabitants of the republic have suddenly stopped. One reason for this state of affairs is the removal of these goods from the republic. Participants at the meeting said it is necessary to establish a structure which will make it possible to implement all existing decisions and regulations on (?stopping) the illegal transfer of food, goods and materials from the republic.

Instructions from the president on adopting resolute measures to protect the domestic market were taken as guidelines.

Participants at the meeting regarded as incorrect the exchange of goods, including the removal of flour, sugar, rice, cooking oil, and meat products, on barter basis. A republican commission was established in order to urgently supervise the illegal transfer of essential goods and materials.

Turkmenistan

Republic Willing To Be Commonwealth 'Cofounder'

OW1912144791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Press Secretary of Turkmenistan's president Anngeldy Orazdurdiyev has told IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent that President Saparmurad Niyazov is arriving in the Kazakh capital Alma-Ata on Saturday [21 December] to meet with the leaders of other republics. According to the press secretary, Turkmenistan is willing to act as a co-founder of the Euroasian commonealth of independent nations.

New Democratic Party Reveals Orientation, Plan

New Party Motto Noted

LD1612185791 Moscow TASS in English 1654 GMT 16 Dec 91

[By TURKMENINFORM correspondent Lyudimila Glazovskaya]

[Excerpt] Ashkhabad December 16 TASS—The 25th congress of the Turkmenian Communist Party has decided to disband the organisation. It criticized the party's activities and put forward a program of a democratic party to be the Communist Party's successor.

The Democratic Party does not repudiate the valuable experience of the past, but negates the communist ideology and proclaims parliamentary principles of activities, the congress said.

The new party's motto will be "For Civil Society, Humanism and Basic Interests of the People". [passage omitted]

Called Successor to Communist Party

LD1612232391 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2052 GMT 16 Dec 91

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] On December 16th delegates of the 25th Congress of the Communist Party of Turkmenistan approved decision to transform the Communist Party into Democratic Party and held its founding congress. Former First Secretary of the Central Committee of Communist Party of Turkmenistan, President of Turkmenistan Saparmurat Niyazov was elected chairman of the Democratic Party of Turkmenistan. These program and statute have been adopted, according to it the party's objective is to assist in creation of a legal democratic state in Turkmenistan. The party's program also envisages strengthening of the presidential form of government in the republic, all possible support to the president and parliament of Turkmenistan. The Democratic Party is oriented towards market reforms, sale of the state's property and support of all forms of property. In the field of national relations the new party is going to defend the equal rights of all nations protecting the interests of representatives of the Turkmenistan people wherever they live. In its internal affairs the Democratic Party of Turkmenistan proclaims the principle of subordination of minority to majority and collective approach to making decisions. The program stresses that the party's ideology is based on the achievements of the national and world democratic thought. According to information provided to PF [POSTFACTUM] by member of the existing in the republic initiative group for preservation of the Communist Party of Turkmenistan, former employee of the Central Committee of Communist Party of Turkmenistan Galina Shepotkina, genuine Communists will hold their own congress in the nearest future at which they are going to re-establish the party betrayed by its own leadership.

More on Democratic Party

OW1712110991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0823 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkmenistan's Democratic Party [DP], set up on the basis of the republic's Communist Party, held its constituent congress in Ashkhabad Monday [16 December]. The new party will be chaired by Turkmenistan's President Saparmurad Niyazov and run by a political council consisting of 108 members.

The DP has proclaimed itself a parliamentary party seeing it as its main goal to help Turkmenistan attain genuine independence and develop into a law-ruled democratic state.

Mr. Niyazov told the congress that "the Democratic Party should not be a replica of other political organizations." Neither should it be a branch of any parties operating in other republics, he said.

Uzbekistan

'Solid Foundation' for Friendship With Turkey

OW2012124691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1147 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During the recent visit of Uzbekistan's governmental delegation to Turkey "a solid foundation was laid for broadening friendship between the two nations and 8 vitally important agreements were signed, including the Treaty on the Principles of Inter-State Relations," Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov, said in the Tashkent airport on Friday upon his return from Ankara.

Turkey, the first country to have recognized independent Uzbekistan "has always aroused genuine interest and

sympathy in Uzbekistan," said Mr Karimov. "There is a great deal we can learn from it today," he added.

Mr. Karimov rejected allegations that in Turkey the two sides had discussed the creation of a "Muslim alliance" and said that "no one should be fanning any fears." Mr. Karimov stressed at the same time, that now that the USSR has split up, Uzbekistan must choose its "own efficient way of development." In his opinion, the Turkish model suits Uzbekistan best.

President Favors Firm Order, Discipline

OW1912164991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan called for firm order and discipline. Order and discipline are the key to a dignified life, he told a local newspaper.

At the same time I. Karimov gave support to free enterprise and to all forms of property. According to him really big changes will take place in the republic in a couple of years.

The president of Uzbekistan called for invigorating the ruble, even though he is in favour of introducing Uzbekistan's own monetary unit. I. Karimov realizes that to make transition to Uzbekistan's own currency is a long and tortuous process.

With reference to religion the president said that all obstacles in this area will be eventually lifted.

Privatization, Denationalization Law in Effect

LD2012115291 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1300 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] A law on denationalization and privatization has come into effect in Uzbekistan. It envisages citizens' equal rights to obtaining a share of state property and social protection for workers. Earth, its mineral wealth, water, natural resources, cultural and historical values are not subject to privatization. By the end of next January, the RIA world service reports, the Uzbek Government should submit a privatization program for 1992-93 to the Republican Supreme Soviet.

Further on Bill

OW1912192791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The bill on denationalization and privatization went into effect in Uzbekistan on Thursday [19 December]. It provides for transferring government property to individuals and labor staffs free of charge and otherwise, and proclaims equal rights for Uzbek citizens as to the receipt of their share of property.

The bill is aimed at ensuring social security for the population in the course of denationalization, establishing strict control over these processes and observing the provisions of anti-monopoly legislation.

Land, its mineral wealth, flora, fauna, cultural and historic values are not subject to denationalization or privatization.

Preference in the transfer of government property will be given to the citizens of Uzbekistan. People from other republics and foreign countries will be able to acquire what is subjected to denationalization and privatization and the relevant shares at quotas fixed by the Uzbek Government.

Private Aviation Company To Replace Aeroflot

LD1912233291 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 2000 GMT 16 Dec 91

[From the "New Wave" program]

[Text] A Tu-154 plane of the Uzbek Directorate of Civil Aviation has carried out its first flight on the Tashkent-Istanbul route. The plane was in the air for four and a half hours. Meanwhile, the Directorate of Civil Aviation said that this was the last flight carried out by a plane of the Union Aeroflot company. Flights from Tashkent abroad will soon be carried by the national aviation company—Uzbekistan Airline.